

# HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



Thursday, February 14, 2013

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## Coffee closure

Book store and drop in shop is under threat

Page 6



## Right notes

Choir donates thousands to help British Legion

Page 16



## Missed match

Odemwingie backed by his Baggies team mates

Page 40



## Borough tenants facing a rent rise

THOUSANDS of Dudley council house tenants are facing a rent increase of an average 4.6 per cent.

The rise is the equivalent of £3.59 per week and was backed by the council's cabinet on Wednesday.

It's the lowest annual increase for the borough's 24,000 council tenants since 2010.

The rent rise has been calculated using the Government's formula, which is based on inflation and the size and value of council properties.

Deputy council leader Councillor Shaukat Ali said: "The proposed increase will contribute to investment in maintaining the council's existing properties and the formation of an anti-social behaviour team."

He said work to replace old electric storage heaters in properties was also planned.

Service charges for lighting and heating in 344 sheltered housing properties will also rise by 2.6 per cent.

Meanwhile it's proposed that pitch licences at Oak Lane in Kingswinford will be increased by 2.6 per cent.

The council house rent increase will come into force in April, if approved by members of the full council on March 4.

## Mayor calls for heroes

PEOPLE in Dudley borough are being urged to highlight the work of their community heroes for an annual award.

The Mayor of Dudley's Civic Awards aims to honour unsung heroes who work tirelessly in their neighbourhoods. People can fill out a nomination form before the February 18 deadline.

The categories, all named after the borough's greats, include the Duncan Edwards award for sport, and the Cedric Hardwicke award for arts. People can nominate online at [www.dudley.gov.uk](http://www.dudley.gov.uk)

# PROBE ON TRUST IS RIGHT, SAYS MP

by Louise Jew

### HALESOWEN'S MP has welcomed a top level investigation into high death rates at Dudley's hospital trust – and called for a meeting with the team leading the probe.

James Morris, MP for Halesowen and Rowley Regis, said it was right that Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, which runs Russells Hall Hospital, should be investigated, even though death rates there had fallen recently.

NHS medical director, Professor Sir Bruce Keogh, announced that Dudley was one of 14 trusts across the country being looked at in the wake of the Stafford Hospital scandal.

Mr Morris said: "The scandal at Stafford Hospital was allowed to happen because nobody at that time was prepared to act on what appear to be clear warning signs that something was very wrong."

"It is right that the Department for Health is taking a much more vigilant approach to make sure that patients' interests are protected and so I am pleased that they are looking seriously into this matter.

"Death rates at Russells Hall have fallen over the last two or three years, despite increasing demand for hospital services, but we must always do everything we can to ensure that we have the best possible quality of health service for local residents."

He and other local MPs Margot James, representing Stourbridge, and Ian Austin, Dudley North, have called for talks with those leading the inquiry to learn more about their concerns.

#### Measures

The investigation follows findings by the Doctor Foster Hospital Guide that the number of patient deaths at Russells Hill Hospital was above expected levels in 2011/12.

The hospital standardised mortality rating, which measures deaths while in hospital care, was 111.1 between April 2011 and March 2012, compared with an expected level of 100.

Dudley Group chief executive Paula Clarke has defended the trust's record but welcomed the investigation to give "further reassurance" to patients.

She said its current death rates were "within the expected range" and had been showing continuing improvement over the past year.

Mrs Clarke also said the trust had a number of measures in place to ensure patient safety, including monthly reports from ward matrons and clinical staff to the board of directors and a "whistle blowing"

## Couple win a dream holiday



From left manager Kerry Jones, winner Pauline Tromans and Andy Harris, key account manager

A HUSBAND and wife from Halesowen have won the trip of a lifetime in a free prize draw at their local travel agents.

Pauline and Michael Tromans won the four-night break in Dubai after entering the competition at Midcounties Co-operative.

The competition was run throughout 54 branches of the travel agent and Halesowen Manager Kerry Jones said she was delighted the couple had won.

She added: "Pauline and Michael have been booking their holidays with us for four or five years now and we're so happy for them. We hope they have a great time."

"Dubai is a place I have always fancied seeing because people say how lovely it is."

"I saw the form and thought I would have a go but I never thought I would win. We are really looking forward to a memorable trip."

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## Lecturers name day for strike walkout

HALESOWEN College staff have announced plans to strike today, as part of the ongoing dispute over the sacking of four maths lecturers.

Members of the University and College Union (UCU) said they would deliver a giant St Valentine's Day card to the school's management with the 12,000 signatures of those who signed a petition to reinstate the teachers affected by the move. A total of 75 per cent of union members who voted backed strike action.

UCU regional official Nick Varney said: "Staff at Halesowen will be on strike because of the way the college has dismissed staff."

"It simply cannot treat people like this and use them to mask its own failings."

The argument started with the dismissal of maths lecturer and UCU branch chair Dave Muritu days before Christmas. Since then three other maths lecturers have been sacked and lost their appeals.

College principal Keith Bate hit back saying the teachers had been sacked because they failed to perform.

He said: "Where support and training has been provided, the college will not condone consistent failure to deliver expected standards of performance."

## Kitchen plan for college

DUDLEY College has unveiled plans to create community sports facilities, a training kitchen and children's nursery.

Bosses have already embarked on a £30 million project to create a Learning Quarter in the town centre including a new sixth form hub and vocational centre.

Principal Lowell Williams said other projects were in the pipeline to extend the facilities open to students and the wider community.

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## NEWS

## CONTENTS

Peter Rhodes	?
Letters	?
Memory Lane	?
Club News	?
Puzzle Page	?
TV Listings	?
Property	?
Motoring	?
Classified	?
Sport	?

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## Baby boy died after check up by doctor

A MOTHER told an inquest of the last moments she shared with her baby son before he died of a serious infection just hours after being checked by his GP.

Govind Singh Toor's parents were told by their doctor the nine-month-old baby was battling a virus. But their son died from an aggressive streptococcal infection, which was likely to have been present days earlier, the inquest was told.

Govind, who died on January 7, 2010, spent four days in Russells Hall Hospital in December, 2009, with a wheezing condition as well as spending New Year's Eve in the hospital before he was allowed out.

His parents Surinder Kaur, aged 32, and Santokh Singh, 40, of Leighton Close, Dudley, told the inquest at Smethwick Coroner's Court they took their son to his GP, Dr JS Rathore in Castle Meadow Surgery, Dudley on January 4, and he told them Govind had a virus.

The next day Mrs Kaur spoke to the GP on the phone as Govind was vomiting and refusing to eat and the doctor suggested hydration for the baby. The inquest continues.

## £11m grant for councils

AN £11 million Government grant that will help create 1,285 jobs in the Black Country will be accepted by councils in the region at a meeting on Thursday.

Authorities in the region applied for the cash as part of round three of the Government's Regional Growth Fund. Dudley Borough Council is one of seven partners in the bid. The others are Wolverhampton City Council, Walsall Council, Sandwell Council, Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership, Black Country Chamber of Commerce and Manufacturing Advisory Service.

## Steps to funds

A DUDLEY council worker aims to raise money for her son who has cystic fibrosis. Nicola Monckton, will run up the 658 steps of the Beetham Tower in Birmingham city centre. The Human Resources officer will raise money for the Cystic Fibrosis trust after her son George, aged two, was diagnosed with it.

## 200 extra officers for police

TWO hundred more police officers, special constables and PCSOs will be deployed to the front line in the West Midlands, following the approval of this year's budget for the region's police force.

Around 100 police officers will have their roles taken on by other staff so they can concentrate solely on working on the streets and serving their neighbourhoods.

About 50 new PCSOs will be taken on – ending a two year recruitment freeze by the force – as well as 50 new special constable volunteers.

The extra cost will mean residents will see their council tax precepts for the police force rise by three per cent – just under £3 extra a year for the average household.

The increase will provide the force with £65million for 2013/14 – making up for a 12 per cent drop in Government funding to £492million. The force also plans to spend £2million from reserves.

Last week, the region's police and crime panel approved the budget following a presentation by Police and Crime Commissioner Bob Jones. Afterwards, he said: "I am very pleased we can now move forward."

## Lynx settling into home

TWO rare Carpathian lynx are settling into their new home at Dudley Zoo. Male lynx Dave transferred from Salzburg Zoo, Austria, while female, Daisy, moved from Zoo Vesprem, Hungary last autumn.

Senior keeper Adam Walker said Daisy immediately became the more confident of the two and was soon busy exploring their enclosure, while Dave hid away at the back.

But he said slowly and surely the 18-month-old male is gaining confidence and beginning to feed from keepers' hands.

## Trustees wanted

TRUSTEES are being sought for a castle on the outskirts of Kidderminster. Hartlebury Castle Preservation Trust wants four trustees, including a qualified accountant as treasurer. Applicants should send their CV and a brief statement of why they would like to join to alison.brimeelow469@btconnect.com.

# Councillors vote in a new leader of party



Patrick Harley

CONSERVATIVE councillors in Dudley have voted in Councillor Patrick Harley as the party's new leader.

Former Dudley Council leader Councillor Les Jones stepped down as leader of the borough's Tory group amid claims of his failing leadership.

At a show-down meeting on Friday, councillors discussed the future direction of the party, and a ballot was held for the leadership.

It was originally thought that present deputy leader, Councillor Tim Wright, and the group's trans-

port spokesman Councillor Patrick Harley would vie for the top job.

But in the end it was Councillor Harley who took on Councillor Ken Turner for the post – and Councillor Harley was declared the winner.

At the meeting Conservative councillors discussed the future of the party, which lost control of Dudley Council at last May's elections.

This was further compounded by a by-election defeat at the end of last month.

Councillor Harley, who represents Kingswinford South, said he was very

pleased there was a contest for leadership.

He said: "To be honest I was pleased there was a contest for leadership, as it is not right that someone should just be declared a winner."

"At the meeting we had a frank discussion about the state of the party and we all decided the members need to unite and concentrate our efforts on taking the Labour administration to task."

He added: "The most important thing is that we unite the group, so we can move forward." Councillor

Harley said he felt honoured to be elected leader of the party. He added: "I am personally delighted, and will do my utmost to unite the party."

The budget and transport are two areas he believed people in Dudley most care about at this time.

He pledged to sort out the party's shadow cabinet and provide a strong challenge to Labour when the borough elections take place in May next year.

Councillor Jones served as leader of the party in the borough for almost two years.

## NEWS

### in brief

#### Hearing opened on dead prisoner

AN inquest in Stourport on a prisoner who died after being found injured has been adjourned.

Four men have been charged with murder following the death of Adnan Rafiq, aged 22, of Moseley, Birmingham.

Rafiq was taken from HMP Hewell in Redditch to hospital in Coventry but died on January 30. Those charged are Jahnel Faure, 28, of West Bromwich, Barry Mundle, 34, of Wolverhampton, Jermaine Christie, 27, of Telford, and Paul Coulter, 27, of Swansea.

#### Jack-knife puts block on M-way

TRAFFIC was delayed after a dual carriage way feeding the M5 was blocked when a Land Rover towing a 30ft caravan jack-knifed, leading to fears that gas cylinders could explode.

The busy A491 leading to junction four of the motorway was blocked off by police from the Hagley island at the junction with the A456 for about two hours. No-one was injured in the incident, which happened last week and left the caravan embedded in an embankment.

#### Crazy golf comes to Merry Hill site

A TEENAGER from Dudley has made it through to the final of a national beauty pageant while a youngster from Halesowen is hoping to join her.

Lauren Hatton, aged 14, from Redstone Way, Lower Gornal received more than 1,600 votes to make it through to this year's Teen Queen UK final in the summer.

Lauren was scouted at the Birmingham Clothes Show in December and was whisked off to London for a photo shoot before being entered into the semi-finals of Teen Queen UK.

More than 9,600 girls were called to London to see if they could be short-listed for entry into the Teen Queen UK competition, which helps charity.

Lauren was one of the lucky few to make it to the next stage which she went on to win.

Mum, Susan Smith, 46, said: "She was really excited when she had her first photo shoot she didn't expect anything, she's looking forward to helping the charities and really wants to do well." For more information about the pageant log on to www.mistenqueenuk.com

**Women injured**

TWO women were injured after their cars crashed on Vicarage Road, Stourbridge. The crash happened around 9.30pm on February 6. Both drivers went to Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital.

# Freeze on council tax will cut extra £5m from budget

**DUDLEY** Council will have to make further cuts of £5 million if plans to freeze council tax for another year are approved.

Members of the cabinet are due to accept a £2.2m Government grant allowing the authority to keep the rate the same in 2013/14.

However, instead of having to make savings of £22m – had a two per cent rise in the rate been introduced – it will now need to find £27m. Plans already revealed to make savings include reducing budgets from street cleaning to some services for children and the elderly.

Work is continuing on the budget proposals to help find the shortfall.

The decision to freeze council tax comes after thousands of residents across the borough responded to a consultation asking whether they would be willing to pay more to protect services.

#### Wanted

The figures showed that 49 per cent said they wanted council tax rates to remain the same.

While 51 per cent had said they would be willing to pay more to protect council services.

But Dudley Council's finance chief Pete Lowe said 25 per cent did not want the council to increase the rate above the Government's limit – this would have needed a referendum.

"The consultation

revealed a wide range of opinions but certainly does not give us the mandate to go out to a referendum.

"A significant number of people did not want an increase and we had to listen to them.

"We had been criticised for some people who said the consultation did not matter because we had already decided to put council tax up.

"But I think this shows that we have listened to our residents.

"I am pleased that such a huge number of people were in favour of protecting services it shows just how much they value them."

The council tax freeze proposal was due before the cabinet on Tuesday.

If approved, they will go before the full council on March 4 for the final decision.

## Plea for war stories

A DUDLEY group is appealing for information and pictures of men from Wall Heath and Kingswinford who died in the first or second world wars.

The Wall Heath and Kingswinford War Memorials Research Group wants help to create a book ready for the centenary of the start of the 1914-18 First World War.

Joy Marshall, who grew up in Wall Heath but now lives in Northampton, and Lis Corfield, of Penzer Street, Kingswinford, are collecting stories for a book of remembrance.

They plan to display the information collected so far at the Church of the Ascension Church Hall in Wall Heath, next Saturday from 10am to 2pm. Call Joy on 07739 572121.



Lauren Hutton, a student at Dormston School, is a step nearer to being Teen Queen UK

## Lauren in finals of teenage pageant

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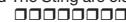
## NEWS

THE BEST  
OF PETER  
RHODES

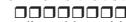
THE best part of the unearthing of Richard III's bones in a Leicester car park is that the team began digging in a car space reserved with the letter R. Dig under R and you find Richard. The next hunt for royal bones may be in Winchester where the remains of Alfred the Great are supposed to lie. There must be a great temptation to start searching for the letters AG



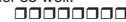
THANKS for the bulging postbag on the subject of films which have made audiences spontaneously cheer. Les Misérables and The Sting are clear front-runners.



ONE reader makes a good point about the first time she saw Jaws (1975) when the giant shark suddenly erupted from the water and the whole audience applauded wildly. She says the unconvinced rubber shark which terrified us so satisfactorily in 1975 is almost laughable today, and are we becoming hardened to horror? She's right. Can you name a single classic horror movie that still frightens us?



AS SHE took Australian citizenship, that great British actress Miriam Margolyes declared: "I don't like class distinction and there is far too much of that in England." Maybe there is. But class distinction, in all its infuriating silliness, is the very bedrock of the English sense of humour. Margolyes has made a very good living exploiting it, all the way from Ladies in Lavender to Jam & Jerusalem, not forgetting her glorious Queen Victoria in the Blackadder Christmas Special. Pity she has to bite the hand that fed her so well.



CHRIS Huhne's ex-wife Vicky Pryce used the old law on "marital coercion" in her defence to a charge of perverting the course of justice. This rare defence dates from the 1925 Criminal Justice Act and can be used only by married women. When gay marriages become legal, all sorts of changes will have to be made to English law. The scrapping of "marital coercion" must surely be one of the first.



**Don't miss Peter Rhodes  
every Monday to Friday in  
your Express & Star**

# Modern engineers fix Victorian canal tunnel

IT'S a far cry from the picks and shovels which used in Victorian engineering.

Now modern techniques are helping to save a famous Dudley canal tunnel for the future.

More than a dozen engineers are working around the clock to reinforce the 1.7-mile long Netherton Tunnel as part of ongoing repairs.

Scaffolding on top of wooden boarding placed over the canal gives workers access to the tunnel lining.

They drill holes in the wall and fit them with steel tubes which are then filled with concrete. Steel mesh is pegged on to the brick archway and also filled with concrete.

## Generators

Workers use hand drills as generators on the towpath flood the tunnel with light to give them a clear view.

The tunnel, serving the Birmingham Canal Navigations stretch between Netherton and Tipton, will be closed for four months.

Cracks began to appear in the brickwork section of the tunnel almost a mile underground – prompting the need for restoration by the Canal and River Trust.

Regional engineering manager, John Ward, said: "It is important we do the work because if we didn't the tunnel closure would cut the main Black Country canal, which stretches from Birmingham to the River Severn, in half.

"If we didn't do the work the floor of the tunnel would pop up because of the pressure from the side walls and eventually the tunnel would collapse." Netherton Tunnel, which is 26ft underground, is the largest



Workers, some using this scaffolding platform, are busy carrying out urgently needed restoration work on the walls and roof deep underground inside Dudley's Netherton Tunnel – the largest of its kind in the country

tunnel of its kind in the country, measuring almost 27ft wide and around 24ft high. Inside workers put 20ft-long steel rods on each side of the canal which go into the bank.

These help stabilise the tunnel, stopping cracking underneath the water and strengthening the structure above. They are installing steel mesh to cover the inside of the arch of the tunnel, which will be filled with concrete to add more support.

The main focus for the maintenance work is a 164ft stretch deep inside the tunnel. Workers transport materials using boats to get to the site and have been using bikes to get along the towpath.

## Shifts

Two shifts of 15 engineers are working on the project between 9am and 2am each day to ensure the project is completed as soon as possible. Netherton Tunnel has been subject to ongoing repairs ever since it was built in a two-year project which saw it ready for opening in August 1858.

The tunnel, which goes under Dudley town centre, was created by workers digging dozens of holes following a line and shovelling earth out.

The tunnel was then initially stabilised using timber stands before workers painstakingly installed the brickwork arch which is still standing today.

# Measures are taken to tackle fostering

IMPROVEMENTS are being made to fostering in Dudley says the council children's services chief.

Ofsted inspectors rated services "adequate" and said foster parents needed more training in an inspection report highlighting concerns on levels of staff sickness, which "has led to difficulties in completing some fostering tasks".

Council children's services chief, councillor Tim Crumpton, said: "We are, in the round, pleased with the report and the praise from inspectors for our education standards and the positive relationships between young people and foster carers," he said.

The report does highlight areas for improvement, including more training for foster carers. We have actions in place to address the recommendations in the report.

"My own observations are that foster carers, social workers and our children form a close-knit, caring, family community and that we deliver a high standard."

## A lucky escape

AN elderly man escaped injury after his Nissan Micra car crashed and hit three metal bollards and a lamp post on Wassell Road, Halesowen, at about 9.30am on February 6. Police and fire crews from Stourbridge and Cradley Heath were called.

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## Prison term for benefit fraudster

A BENEFITS cheat from Halesowen who had more than £42,000 in the bank while claiming payouts totalling in excess of £18,000 has been jailed for 12 weeks.

David Priest, aged 44, had the money banked from the sale of a flat he owned – but claimed housing and council tax benefit for three years after being made redundant.

Priest, of Caslon Flats, Tree Acre Grove, admitted two offences of making a false statement to obtain benefit between January 2009 and March 2012.

Mr Gerard Brady, defending, told the court Priest, who had no previous convictions, had been made redundant after working in lowly paid, unskilled jobs since the age of 16.

"He has shown remorse and great shame for what he has done," said Mr Brady.

District Judge Ian Strong, at Dudley Magistrates Court, told Priest: "This was a deliberate fraud, perpetrated over three years, resulting in obtaining £18,000 to which you were not entitled." Mr Tim Holder, prosecuting for Dudley Council, said Priest had paid back the benefits totalling £18,199.

## Missing man, 55, is safe and well

POLICE say a man who went missing in Halesowen has been found safe and well.

Terrence Corfield, aged 55, who has a heart complaint, had not been seen since Thursday in Laurel Lane.

# 90-year-old Arnold killed by skip lorry was war veteran



A 90-YEAR-OLD man who was knocked down and killed by a skip lorry while crossing the road was a Navy veteran of the Second World War.

Tributes have been paid to Arnold Soulsby, who died after suffering head, neck and chest injuries in the incident in Bank Street, Brierley. The retired engineer lived in Miles Court, John Street, in the town.

It is thought that he was walking to the shops when he was hit on January 30. Mr Soulsby was an active member of the Black Country Bowls Club and the Royal British Legion and Royal Naval Association in Stourbridge.

His daughter Susan Rowley, 61, of Grove Road, Stourbridge, said that his death had left his two children, four grandchildren and eight great grandchildren "incredibly upset".

Mrs Rowley said: "He was a very healthy living sort of guy – his death was a massive shock."

"He was deaf and needed glasses, but was very mobile and would go out walking every day."

"He was not your typical old man."

Mr Soulsby served in the Royal Navy during the Second World War from 1944, spending time mostly in the Indian Ocean before being demobbed in 1946.

### Shock

Ron Gould, welfare officer at the Royal Naval Association in Stourbridge, said that Mr Soulsby had helped the branch collect £3,000 for the Poppy Appeal at Merry Hill shopping centre last year.

Mr Gould said: "His death was tragic, it was a terrible shock to everyone."

"I'll remember him for his sense of humour and strong Geordie accent."

He lived and worked in Newcastle before moving to the Black Country in 1975 to be closer to his two daughters, Mrs Rowley and Carol Woodward.

His wife Lilian died in 1995 aged 69.

An inquest was opened on February 6. A full hearing will be held later this year.

## £2.5m spend on new bins

DUDLEY COUNCIL will spend £2.5million on wheelie bins for weekly collections.

They will buy 125,000 bins to replace black plastic bags now used and there are plans to roll out a plastic and cardboard recycling service to more borough homes.

In 2010 the council introduced a three-bin system for each property but bins should save £250,000 spent on black sacks each year.

Cabinet member for environment, Tracy Wood, said bins would let them make more efficient collections and cut the risk of bags splitting or being ripped open by animals.

They would be financed through savings from the sack service and be complemented by improvements to kerbside collection, adding plastic and cardboard to glass, cans and paper already collected for recycling.

Waste and recycling scored highly in the Big Question consultation, and they strived to deliver the best service. Council leader David Sparks said: "Our budget for the next three years outlines expansions of these services to bring plastic and card recycling to all borough households and to also introduce wheelie bins for weekly collections."

Mr Gerard Brady, defending, told the court Priest, who had no previous convictions, had been made redundant after working in lowly paid, unskilled jobs since the age of 16.

"He has shown remorse and great shame for what he has done," said Mr Brady.

District Judge Ian Strong, at Dudley Magistrates Court, told Priest: "This was a deliberate fraud, perpetrated over three years, resulting in obtaining £18,000 to which you were not entitled." Mr Tim Holder, prosecuting for Dudley Council, said Priest had paid back the benefits totalling £18,199.

Arnold Soulsby

## Still valentines after 60 years



Iris and Geoff are still very much in love

St VALENTINE'S Day will mark a couple's

crematorium assistant that he

loved the most. In Lower Gornal they raised

three children Yvonne, Suzanne and Ian.

They now enjoy spending time with

grandchildren Emma and Simon or going

out with friends from The Five Ways

Methodist Church.

Yvonne Bayes Davies, their eldest daughter

said: "When I look at their life like this it

makes me feel so humble and proud to have

them as my parents."

Iris was an office worker at Clifford

Williams and Denbigh Engineering while

Geoff had a variety of jobs, from a Territorial

Army pay sergeant to a welder. It was his



Iris and Geoff on their big day 60 years ago

last job as a crematorium assistant that he

loved the most. In Lower Gornal they raised

three children Yvonne, Suzanne and Ian.

They now enjoy spending time with

grandchildren Emma and Simon or going

out with friends from The Five Ways

Methodist Church.

Yvonne Bayes Davies, their eldest daughter

said: "When I look at their life like this it

makes me feel so humble and proud to have

them as my parents."

"I think the reason for their long mar-

riage is traditional values and working at it

which couples today don't seem to do."

To celebrate their anniversary friends

and family will treat them to a special meal.

## NEWS in brief

### Pensioner fights for lower speeds

A PENSIONER has taken his fight to get a speed limit cut from 30 to 20mph on a busy road near a school, to a Minister.

Ray Kilgour wrote to Transport Secretary Patrick McLoughlin to plead for safety measures in Princess Way, Acreley Kings, near Stourport.

The 75-year-old has collected more than 600 signatures calling for the limit to be reduced from 30 to 20mph. He also wants speed bumps to help slow down drivers near St Bartholomew's Primary School.

### Musical night to raise hospice cash

A NIGHT of musical theatre with songs from West End shows is being staged for charity.

Brierley Hill Musical Theatre Company is presenting A Grand Night for Singing.

It will be held at Stourbridge Town Hall, off Market Street, on February 28, starting at 7.30pm.

Tickets cost £6, with proceeds going to Mary Stevens Hospice. Call Irene on 0121 500 8631 for details.

### Free golf lessons for young players

YOUNG golfers are being offered free lessons.

Wyr Forest District Council and Wharton Park Golf Club, Bewdley, run Wharton Park Golf Academy for 18-25 year-olds at 10.10am on Saturdays and 2pm on Sundays.

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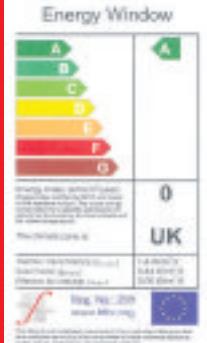
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## NEWS

# Town's book and coffee shop is facing closure

A BOOK and coffee shop in Stourbridge is facing closure unless someone comes forward to rescue it.

The Well has sold Christian books and offered counselling services on the town's High Street for almost 22 years. But its director Roger Eames has warned that unless its fortunes improve, it will vanish.

He said: "We are in difficult and changing times and the needs of the local community are likely to increase rather than decrease in the future.

"Sadly, dwindling resources, increased competition and the general state of the economy mean that, unless a buyer can be found or fresh capital provided to refurbish the coffee shop, the charity will have to close at some time within the next six to 12 months."

Mr Eames, aged 56, said the book shop, run by Christian charity The Well Trust, had been hit in recent years by the popularity of the internet and music downloads.

Meanwhile, the coffee shop had also seen fewer customers, he added.

During its 22 years The Well has also been a centre for counselling and pregnancy support for new mothers and Mr Eames said thousands had been through the doors for those services. The shop and cafe employs 12 paid staff and has regular volunteers.

He said: "If we go it will leave a significant hole because there's really nothing else like it in the town centre.

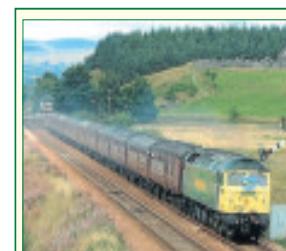
"A lot of people who are lonely or elderly use it as their second home and have become known to the staff." Mr Eames said the shop's trustees were due to make a decision on its future in the next three to six months.

## History speaker returns

POPULAR speaker Gillian White will pay her third visit to talk to Stourbridge Historical Society on February 21 at 7.30pm. The 16th century specialist will give an illustrated talk about Chatsworth and the Cavendish Family from 1550 to 1850.



Manager Dermot Cawley at The Well coffee and book shop



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## LETTERS

# Road through park is a real issue

THERE have been numerous objections to the proposal of a Retirement Village/private housing on the site of the former Cradley High School.

The objections seem to range from, the safety of young children going to and from the two nearby schools; wildlife on the site; traffic and parking and the size of the development.

The majority, including councillors and the developers Midland Heart, seem to have forgotten the proposal to construct a five road straight through Homer Hill Park thus cutting it in two for access, is a major issue and one that

the Friends of Homer Hill Park are strongly against.

The safety of these same children will also be at risk when they come to the park where they will naturally want to run and play, also dog owners using the park, none of these things would be safe to do if there was a five road going through it. Homer Hill Park is a relatively small one but it is a green, open, space just the same, which is in short supply in Cradley as it is and nothing can justify taking parkland and destroying the safety of the park.

Friends of Homer Hill Park are

always working hard to make improvements for every user and encourage more people to go there as part of leading healthier lifestyles. Any plans the friends have for improving the park has countless consultations with residents and schools, these plans are then scrutinised by the DMBC on any of the health and safety aspects.

So in the name of green open space, healthier lifestyles and health & safety how can anyone even consider allowing a road to run through the park.

MRS MARY WHITEHOUSE  
Cradley

## We need heroes like George not jobsworths

WHAT a wonderful story recently, of how six month old Sam Stevens was rescued from the freezing sea at Watchet Somerset by the quick reactions of the 63-year-old harbour master George Reeder.

Mr Reeder, in the words of the boy's father, came out of nowhere without hesitation and dived in to save the baby.

Fortunately Mr Reeder had not read the EU health and safety edict that forbids anyone from attempting to rescue anyone from water if it is more than ankle deep.

This unfortunately occurred in Gosport when a so-called specialist team of emergency rescue firemen were called to a man lying face down in a few inches of water, sadly they stood by the EU directive and the poor man died. What a pity there aren't a few more George Reeders around.

B PARSONS  
Coseley

## LETTERS to the Editor

### POST

Halesowen Chronicle,  
Chronicle Editorial, 51-53  
Queen Street, Wolverhampton  
WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

### E-MAIL

Dudley.chrons@  
expressandstar.co.uk

## Birdbrained ideas of leader Cameron

I FEEL I had to write about Cameron's latest chicken-brained ideas of axing the Red Arrows and the bedroom tax coming in April.

Isn't there any limit to this brainless coalition. If David Cameron had anything of a brain, he would surely know the Red Arrows are loved by the British people. They are renowned worldwide. Their value to the nation is priceless.

It is no wonder fury erupted when this was mentioned as one of the future defence cuts. It only costs £9million per year to keep them. You cannot put a figure on the amount of money they bring into the country.

Then the proposed bedroom tax coming in April. The hardship this is going to cause to certain families is just unforgivable of this coalition Government. The TV has been showing situations of families on benefit where they will be penalised by this terrible tax. This is nothing short of a "poll tax" on bedrooms. One could be forgiven for thinking Margaret Thatcher had come back. David Cameron has no chance of getting his Tory government in for a further term in 2015. My advice to him is to dissolve this coalition as soon as possible and call a general election.

BOB WHITEHOUSE, Kingswinford

## Gullible people are not likely to get vote

TO those seriously gullible people who were hoping for the chance to vote on whether or not this country should remain part of the EU dictatorship and who are now rejoicing at the prospect of an in/out referendum promised by David Cameron, I would urge them to look at the facts, believe it when they see it and ask the question, Who will be allowed to vote?

If it happens at all (and we all know what's happened to previous referendum promises), David Cameron's vote will not happen for at least another four years.

Even then, it's dependent on a Conservative government, led by Cameron, being elected outright in 2015.

At the moment, the daunting prospect of another New Labour Government looks on the cards for 2015.

MR R A SARGEANT  
Dudley

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## NEWS

# Family business putting its energy into growing

**Believin' in music show**



Tom Read, Luke Attwood and Amy Penzer star in *Don't Stop Believing* at the Mill Theatre, Sedgley

A FAMILY-owned electrical engineering firm has taken on more than 50 staff and is looking to increase its turnover to £15 million this year.

Sterling Power Group in Mucklow Hill, Halesowen, has taken on 56 workers to increase its total to 170 in the past 12 months.

Last year the business saw its turnover grow by £4m to £13m.

The company installs renewable energy technology across the UK and is owned by Glyn Jones and his sons, Adam and Mathew.

They say ongoing support from Yorkshire Bank's Business and Private Banking Centre in Temple Row, Birmingham, has been pivotal for the diverse company, which provides services ranging from sub-station and infrastructure projects to street lighting.

It continues to win new contracts and provides engineering training at its Mucklow Hill base.

"How we generate electricity is changing. We have just finished a 12-month contract at Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton in partnership with Schneider Electric.

"The hospital wanted to lower its bills and reduce its carbon footprint so we removed a number of 1960s boilers which weighed 30 tons each and installed a greener power system.

"The electricity now generated will lead to savings on their bills and energy that is not used can be put back into the National Grid.

"We are also involved in six solar energy generation projects in the south of England," he added.

### Boy, 11, is hit by a car

A CHILD escaped with minor injuries after being hit by a car in Halesowen. The 11-year-old boy was involved in the accident at 3.30pm February 6 outside the Stag and Three Horseshoes, Halesowen Road. He had a cut chin and hurt his knee.

A PERFORMER is putting on a musical show for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Ms Penzer's daughter Amy is one of the stars.

Richard Marchlewski, of Wolverhampton, vowed to Vanessa Penzer in her final days, that he would put on a musical show.

Teaching assistant Ms Penzer, from Coven, Staffordshire, died of liver cancer in May last year at the age of 48. Since then Richard has been writing and planning his

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## NEWS

## Pupils perform in a charity dance show



Pupils from Perryfields High School, Oldbury

STUDENTS from an Oldbury school got their chance to shine in a dance show in Sedgley.

The Shine Bright show was staged by 280 pupils from Perryfields High School.

Pupils studying for a BTec in dance organised the event at the Mill Theatre, Dormston School as part of their course and it is expected to have raised £300 for Alzheimer's charity Brace.

## People can feel safe in spite of cuts, assures chief

DUDLEY'S police chief has assured residents they can continue to feel safe despite force cuts – and has told them of his pledge to tackle anti-social behaviour.

Chief Superintendent Stuart Johnson was speaking on a live webchat where people could ask him questions for an hour last night.

Mr Johnson was asked how people could rely on the police when officer numbers were being cut.

"We are part way through a process that will see us change our ways of working to be more efficient in terms of cutting crime and putting officers on the beat," he said.

"Early indications are that the Continuous Improvement model will help cut crime even further than we have seen in recent years."

As part of the Continuous Improvement programme, neighbourhood officers would spend all of their time

### Off duty officer arrests suspect

A MAN has been charged with burglary after being arrested by an off-duty police officer in Hagley.

The West Mercia officer saw two men carrying a lawnmower in Station Road at 11.20am on February 4.

The man who was arrested – a 25-year-old from Tipton – was later charged. He was released on police bail to appear in court on February 19.

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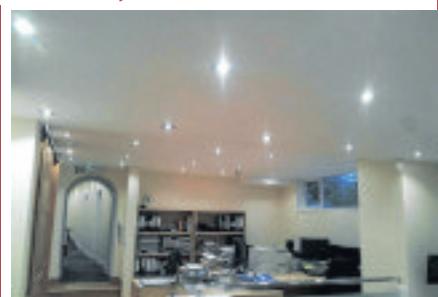


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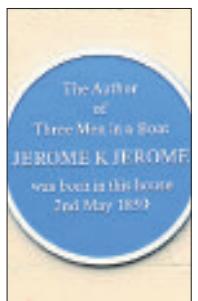
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**MEMORY LANE****Madeleine Carroll**

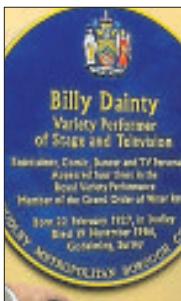
Details on the plaque  
Madeleine Carroll, a Hollywood star whose credits included The 39 Steps, is remembered in three plaques around her home town of West Bromwich. One is at her birthplace in Herbert Street, another is at a home in Jesson Street where she spent most of her childhood. A third is at the former West Bromwich Grammar School.

Madeleine Carroll

**Jerome K Jerome**

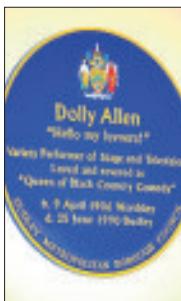
Birthplace plaque  
Jerome K Jerome was a humorist and writer, best known as the author of *Three Men in a Boat*. Born in Bradford Street, Walsall, he was the fourth child of ironmonger Jerome Clapp. The plaque is at his birthplace. Other works include the essay collections *Idle Thoughts of an Idle Fellow* and *Second Thoughts of an Idle Fellow* and *Three Men on the Bummel*.

Jerome K Jerome

**Billy Dainty**

Billy's plaque  
Billy Dainty, was a Dudley-born comedian best remembered for the 1970s Thames Television series *Billy Dainty Esq.* He later appeared alongside Rod Hull on the children's television series *Emu's Broadcasting Company*, and was said to have been the Queen Mother's favourite pantomime dame. His plaque is at Dudley Town Hall.

Billy Dainty

**Dolly Allen**

Dolly's plaque  
Dolly Allen, who is honoured with a plaque at Brierley Hill Civic Hall, was a popular comedienne who formed part of the Black Country Night Out light entertainment group. She is best remembered for the catchphrase "Hello my luvvers!" in a broad Midlands accent. She was also known for her trademark straw hat with its turkey feather and timeless deadpan delivery.

Star Dolly Allen

# Plaques play an educational role

THE blue plaques still play a huge educational role, says Jez Nicholson, of the national website Open Plaques.

"The plaques are very often the first thing that gets people to take an interest in their local history," he adds.

There is a question mark over the future of them in London but there are plenty to be seen around the Black Country.

In Dudley there are seven such plaques (although only five of them are actually blue), around 20 in Sandwell, and around seven in Walsall.

Television comedian Billy Dainty, who died aged 59 in 1986, is honoured on a plaque at Dudley Town Hall, along with fellow pantomime star Clarkson Rose.

Others in the borough include Halesowen poet and landscape gardener William Shenstone, comedian Dolly Allen, and Hollywood star Sir Cedric Hardwicke.

Dudley's cabinet member for culture

Councillor Tracy Wood says the council's policy is that the plaques should be funded by the person or group requesting them, and this includes installation, unless it is on a council building.

One of Walsall's five plaques is in memory of Jerome K Jerome, the author of *Three Men in a Boat*.

Moore Wilkes is chairman of West Bromwich Local History Society, which is behind three plaques which have been installed at landmarks around the town.

She says securing funding for the plaques has definitely become more difficult recently, and can well envisage that fewer new plaques will be unveiled in years to come.

"In the past there has been lottery funding available, but a lot of that has dried up," she says. The funding is there if you are willing to search for it, but it is very difficult

to find, and you really have to dot all the 'i's and cross all the 't's.

"A lot of the heritage money went to the Olympics last year, meaning that there is less to go around."

It was Heritage Lottery funding that helped Smethwick Local History Society mark the Millennium by having 10 plaques erected at important sites around the area.

"Our plaques cost in the region of £250," says the society's Mary Bodfish.

**Dedicated**

Among the sites recognised in this way are the site of James Watt's Smethwick engine which pumped water from the town's locks in 1779 to 1891, and the Old Chapel Inn, previously The Hand of Providence, an 18th century pub in Uplands which dates from the same time as the neighbouring church.

Warley Woods, and the Soho Foundry are also recognised.

Historian Terry Price is behind three plaques in West Bromwich, all of which are dedicated to the Hollywood star Madeleine

Carroll.

One is at her birthplace, which was financed by the proceeds of Mr Price's history books, another at her childhood home was jointly financed by Mr Price and Sandwell Council, and a third, at the former West Bromwich Grammar School, where Carroll was a pupil, was sponsored by the Old Throstles Association.

Not that everybody is keen on being honoured in this way.

Mr Price approached rock legend Robert Plant about installing a plaque at his birthplace in West Bromwich, but the musician declined the offer.

Mr Price believes there probably will be fewer plaques installed in years to come, but this is not down to shortage of funding.

"I don't think there are that many people who are really successful, and we don't want it to become devalued to the point where every Tom, Dick and Harry is getting something."

by Mark Andrews

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## Jordan's talent hunt



Jordan Statham is seeking people with learning disabilities with musical talent

AN 18-year-old autistic student is looking for musicians to take part in a talent show.

Jordan Statham, of Glasshouse College, Stourbridge, is recruiting people with learning disabilities for his show.

The musician said: "I want to make sure people realise that, even though someone has a learning disability such as autism, they can still contribute to society in a creative and meaningful way."

Auditions, open to anyone with a learning disability who thinks they have musical talent, are at the Glasshouse Arts Centre, on the college's Wollaston Road site, on Monday March 4 from 6pm until 9pm and Saturday March 9 from 11am until 3pm.

Gail Hickman, college enrichment manager, said: "He has found funding to put on the event and has the full support of the college to make sure the event is a success."

Jordan asked local celebrities to attend but is not saying who. Proceeds go to Autism West Midlands, who have given support. To audition call Gail Hickman or Ami Blakemore on 01384 399459 or 07805 304286.

# Last hurdle cleared for £24m cancer therapy site

PLANS for Worcestershire's first radiotherapy centre have received the final seal of approval paving the way for building work to start.

NHS Midlands and East has given the £24 million project the green light, meaning shorter journeys for patients from Kidderminster:

The centre has been in the pipeline for around five years and is expected to open in 2014.

Patients in the county are forced to travel to centres in Wolverhampton, Coventry or Gloucester for their cancer treatment.

Contractors will now be appointed to begin work on the building which will stand on the existing accident and emergency department car park at Worcestershire Royal Hospital, in Worcester.

This news follows the Department of Health approving the £22.4million loan to fund the project.

Simon Hairsnape, speaking on behalf of NHS Worcestershire said: "The new radiotherapy centre will ensure that the vast majority of radiotherapy and chemotherapy treatments will be delivered within Worcestershire, which is great news for local patients."

Adel Makar, lead cancer clinician, said: "For the first time people of Worcester-

shire will have a state of the art radiotherapy centre at the heart of their community.

"Our aim is to ensure that every cancer patient in Worcestershire will have access to state of the art, timely, holistic care, locally in Worcestershire whenever possible."

"This kind of service development and improvement is the archetype of what we are trying to do in Worcestershire to improve patient services both in terms of quality and accessibility."

It will have five radiotherapy bunkers, two CT scanner rooms, two treatment rooms and three consultancy rooms.

There would also be administrative offices, workshops and control rooms, reception and waiting room areas.

## NEWS

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# School installs cameras to combat metal thieves

SECURITY has been stepped up at a Coseley school after lead was ripped from the roof. Raiders struck at Hurst Hill Primary School seven times between November and December causing thousands of pounds of damage.

The school in Paul Street has now installed a hi-tech CCTV system. All lead stolen is being replaced using a substitute material, which has little value and reduces the risk of more attacks.

The school is also working closely with Dudley Council and the police to prevent further thefts.

Headteacher Caroline Dingle said: "The new system will act as a deterrent to would-be criminals and we are confident our close working with the police over this matter will

have the desired impact. It has been a very depressing few months through the winter dealing with a string of thefts when we all want to focus on giving our children the best possible education."

Dudley Council's education chief Councillor Tim Crumpton said: "These appalling thefts have caused damage and disruption to the school in recent months."

"This CCTV will help prevent future incidents and by working closely with the police we can ensure prosecutions can be made."

In the most recent attack on the school, thieves ripped 30 metres of copper pipe from the roof just before Christmas, damaging water pipes and causing water to fall through the ceiling.

Three classrooms were flooded.

# Jennie's chop for charity



YOUNG Jennie Bradley was so proud of her long, blonde hair she did all she could to avoid the hairdresser's scissors.

But, after hearing of a charity that helps young cancer sufferers, the 10-year-old made a very brave decision. In front of her classmates at Glynn Primary School in Kingswinford, Jennie saw her waist-long hair chopped off to her shoulders. The youngster waited nervously and then shielded her eyes as hairdresser Carrie Hatfield began snipping – cutting off 12 inches of her hair.

But it was all for a good cause as Jennie raised almost £500 for the Little Princess Trust, as well as

donating her chopped-off hair to the charity, which provides real-hair wigs to boys and girls that have lost their own hair through cancer treatment and other illnesses.

Mother Tizzy Orange, aged 41, said: "She's never had her hair properly cut, only slightly trimmed – it's just been with her all her life like that."

"So when she said she was having it cut off I couldn't believe it."

"I am so proud of her, watching her have it cut in front of everyone I felt very emotional." Jennie, of Kingsley Road, Kingswinford, came up with idea after being told about the charity through a family member. To add to Jennie's charity total, visit [www.justgiving.com/jennieshair](http://www.justgiving.com/jennieshair)



Jennie holds her plait after the snip

# Tesco drive for 400 jobs

A RECRUITMENT drive for the first of 400 new jobs at West Bromwich's multi-million pound Tesco Extra store has been launched.

People who have been out of work for more than six months are being given the first chance to apply for jobs at the store at the £200 million New Square development through the supermarket's "regeneration partnership" jobs initiative.

The store has teamed up with Sandwell Council and Jobcentre Plus to form the partnership with the aim of recruiting a third of the positions for local people.

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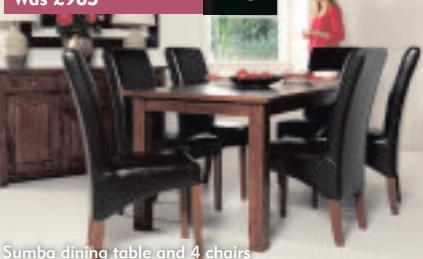
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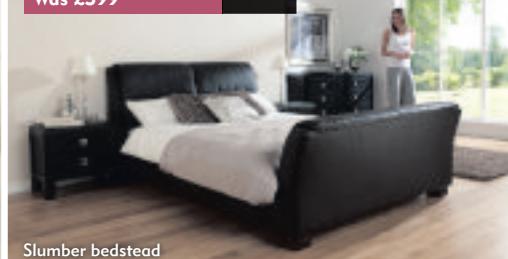
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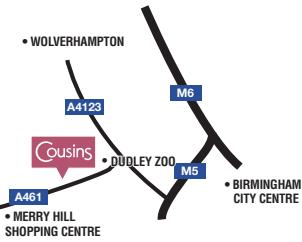
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## FOCUS ON BLACKHEATH AND ROWLEY REGIS

## Pyjamas and prose for young at library

CHILDREN put on their pyjamas and enjoyed a bedtime story session with Halesowen father turned author Lee Howell.

The youngsters came to Cradley Library in Colley Lane dressed in their pyjamas and enjoyed a drink and a cookie as they listened to him reading his own work "Millie's Magic Bed".

He wrote the book, published by Trafalgar, as a Christmas gift for his daughters, Millie and Halle and it has attracted sales as far afield as the US and Canada.

The story is centred around the real-life wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, and as Millie watched the event unfold, her new bed takes her off on a magical journey. Bedtime stories run on the last Thursday of each month. The next is on February 28.

## Invitation to school reunion

FORMER school pupils are being invited to a reunion in Blackheath.

Students who attended The Heathfields School between 1989 and 1991 should meet at the Ashley Hotel pub, Long Lane, on February 22, from 7.30pm. School uniform is the order of the night and there will be karaoke and games.

# Plans to make fire-ravaged Legion club into new homes

Proposals have been submitted to turn a fire-ravaged, former British Legion Club in Blackheath which had lain empty for years into new homes.

Dwindling membership of Blackheath and Rowley Regis the 90-year-old branch to close the club in Powke Lane in November 2011 and the remaining members had to relocate to the Robert Peel Pub in Rowley Regis.

Under the plans submitted by developer John Newall the large building will be turned into three two bedroom flats and a single one bedroom flat with parking for residents at the rear.

In a report to planning chiefs at Sandwell council the developer said: "The building is now in need of renovation and would greatly benefit from approval.

"It is thought that due to the current climate and closing of so many similar facilities, the chances of the building reopening as a Licensed House is very unlikely.

"So granting permission will ensure the continued use

by Tom Mason

of this building." The building, still owned by the club, was nearly lost six years ago after a fire ripped through the building gutting it and leaving the club with a hard battle for survival ahead of them.

The branch declined to

comment on the proposals for the flats or the sale of the building. It remains active and is still involved in remembrance day parades and a variety of other events in the area.

The branch is one of the few British Legion clubs with an affiliated riders section who continue to raise money for by completing charity bike rides.

It holds its meetings every second Tuesday of the month at the Robert Peel at 8pm.

## Table top sale to help research

A TABLE top sale will be held in Blackheath next week to raise money for Arthritis Research UK. The charity's Blackheath and Halesowen branch has organised the event at St Paul's Church Hall, Vicarage Road on February 23 at 10am. Entry is free. To book a table for £5 telephone 0121 550 4207.



Front from St Michael's Secondary School, Rowley Regis are Josh Slaney and back, from left, Charlotte Sankey and Chloe Clifford with councillors and volunteers who have been helping to restore the war memorial at St Giles' Church in Hanover Road

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## £2.8m for classroom expansion at primary

A BLACK Country primary school is being extended to provide nine new classrooms in a £2.8 million scheme.

Money for the improvements at Rowley Hall Primary on Windsor Road, is being funded through the council's school's capital programme.

The extension will provide another 210 child places at the school and enable it to go from a two to three form entry.

A new nursery, a small hall, a studio and kitchen will also be built.

Councillor Bob Badham, Cabinet member for children and families, said the improvements were part of the council's programme to meet additional demand caused by the borough's birth rate.

The extension is due to be completed in August this year.

## Chance to learn felting skills

PEOPLE can take part in a needle felting workshop at Sue's Krafty Bits on Halesowen Street, Rowley Regis, on February 16 at 10am.

The one-day course costs £25 and includes materials and a light lunch. To book or for more information telephone 07891504087 or email sue@kraftybits.com

## Memorial on way to a revamp

A WEATHERED war memorial commemorating Rowley Village's war dead will be restored.

St Giles' war memorial in Hanover Road, Rowley Regis is badly eroded and needs work to restore names of those who lost their lives during World War I.

A group formed by vicar Rev Ian Shelton, Sandwell Council and church wardens are committed to restore the memorial, preserving names on granite slabs.

Councillor Barbara Price, who has helped get funding for work, said: "It is so important to honour the names of these young men, some who were barely out of their teens, who lost their lives nearly 100 years ago."

Rev Shelton said: "It will honour not only those locally who bravely served their country in the past, but those who today, and in the future give their lives so we might live in liberty and freedom."

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Generous boss in donation to centre



Stewart Towe, chairman of Hadley Industries with, left, Sue Howarth, boss of North Smethwick Development Trust, and Pam Randhawa, trust secretary

A CAMPAIGN for a revamp of a Smethwick community centre has raised £7,500, thanks to a donation from a Sandwell business boss.

Smethwick Development Trust, which manages Brasshouse Lane Community Centre, is trying to find £750,000 to pay for a refurbishment of the premises.

Stewart Towe, the managing director of Smethwick-based Hadley Industries and chairman of the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership, is the latest to contribute to fundraising. Bosses are now seeking further grant support and have launched a "buy a brick" initiative, where people can sponsor individual bricks for £5.

# NEWS

## Work gets under way for £11m swim pool

WORK has started on a £11 million swimming pool and leisure complex in West Bromwich. Sandwell Council last year approved DC Leisure's plans for the town centre scheme.

The company will design, build, run and maintain the complex on the corner of Moor Street and Richard Street South.

It is due to open in summer 2014.

There will be a 25m pool with a learner pool, a sauna and steam room, a four-court sports hall, a 100-station fitness suite, a dance studio, an indoor children's adventure play centre and parking.

### Facilities

The council backed the plans with conditions relating to opening hours, and the submission of further details on external materials, drainage, lighting and CCTV, among others.

The council's cabinet member for leisure services Councillor Linda Horton said: "This is another big step on the way to giving West Bromwich a state-of-the-art pool and leisure complex we can all be proud of. The West Bromwich

by Tom Mason

Leisure Centre will provide a real focal point for the community and we hope that the new facilities will help improve the health and wellbeing of residents and families in the area."

Peter Kirkham, development director at DC Leisure, added: "In partnership with Sandwell Council we aim to continue the legacy of the London Olympic and Paralympic Games by encouraging increased participation in physical activity and sport."

Over the past six years, DC Leisure has built 11 leisure facilities worth £110 million across the country.

It manages more than 100 leisure facilities for local councils.

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## NEWS

# £18m village plans are scaled back due to fears

## Singing raises the notes



Front, Jean Martyn, mayor of Dudley Councillor Melvyn Mottram and, back, singers Dennis Perkins, Bob Biggs, Mike Green, and Pete Hawthorne

A CHOIR has donated thousands to the Royal British Legion following a fundraising concert.

The Gentlemen Songsters Male Voice Choir raised £3,000 when they performed at Dudley's Festival of Remembrance prior to Remembrance Day.

This money has now been presented to mayor Melvyn Mottram.

Choir spokesman Mike Green said: "We usually give up to about £10,000 a year to various charities and this one is a regular for us."

The choir, which was formed in

1957 by nine Kingswinford men, is now rehearsing for its spring concert which is on March 23.

Mr Green said the concert would feature pianist Jean Martyn, who finished 10th in Britain's Got Talent in 2011.

There will also be a guest appearance by Mr Mottram, who will join the choir for an as-yet undecided song.

He said: "They're a fantastic choir and I'm delighted they're supporting my charity among the many good causes they get involved in."

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## NEWS

## Tracking down fun



Worker Phil Vaughan with visitors to the Black Country Living Museum

YOUNGSTERS will be playing detective to investigate what life was like for their Victorian counterparts later this month.

Dudley's Black Country Living Museum is launching a new education programme called The History Detectives on February 16 for school groups aged seven to 11.

As part of the programme, lines of inquiry for students include gathering evidence from buildings, objects, photographs, and archives to find out more about the lives of real Black Country children who lived during the Victorian era.

The announcement comes just five months after the jobs of 40 costumed guides, who play a major role in the museum's schools' programme, were put under threat.

Mel Weatherley, head of learning, however, said these roles had been recast and nobody had been lost from the programme.

## Specials chief resigns

AN award-winning Dudley Special Constabulary chief has resigned after being accused of misusing a police force Twitter account.

James Horton headed 65 borough volunteers since 2002, after joining at a recruitment event in Halesowen a decade before despite being diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Last July he received the Chief Constable's Award for Outstanding Contribution, aged 34, and was commended for his role leading special constables during the riots in 2011. He resigned last month after being referred to the police Professional Standards Department over alleged misuse of his force Twitter account, against force policy.

No details have been given about how he allegedly misused the account.

# Prison for banned pub drinker who hit landlord

A FATHER-of-two threw a glass at the head of a landlord who had banned him from the pub in West Bromwich and then attacked him again, a court was told.

Andrew Welcome, aged 43, of Pemberton Road, Hill Top, West Bromwich, who worked as a security officer and was also a scaffolder, first told licensee Kalbir Singh Jassar: "You can't ban me – I will keep coming back to terrify you."

Welcome admitted assault causing actual bodily harm to the landlord at the Hen and Chickens, Hill Top, and was jailed for 14 months.

Judge John Wait, sitting at Wolverhampton Crown Court, told him: "You were barred because of your past aggressive behaviour in the pub. But, in drink, you went in and you were challenging the licensee to throw you out again."

Mr Nicholas Burn, prosecuting, said Welcome, who was known by the nickname "Chuny", used to be friends with Mr Jassar but had been banned about two months before the assault after complaints from other customers about his "aggressive" behaviour.

Despite that, he came into the bar carrying a half pint glass which appeared to contain his "favourite tipple" – whisky. He threw

the drink and then the glass at the licensee, striking him on the side of his head, causing a wound which bled.

Mr Jassar, who had suffered a deep cut to his forehead, was telephoning police when Welcome punched him on the side of his face.

Following a scuffle, Mr Jassar, who also suffered a fractured little finger on his left hand, managed to pin Welcome to the floor.

Mr Bernard Porter, defending, said the last time Welcome had been in trouble for assault was in July 1991. He had been a regular at the pub for a number of years before being banned.

Mr Porter added Welcome had been out drinking in the area because he had recently lost his father, and was the "worse for wear". After being dropped off nearby, he "stupidly" went to the pub.

"He is deeply ashamed of what he did," said Mr Porter.



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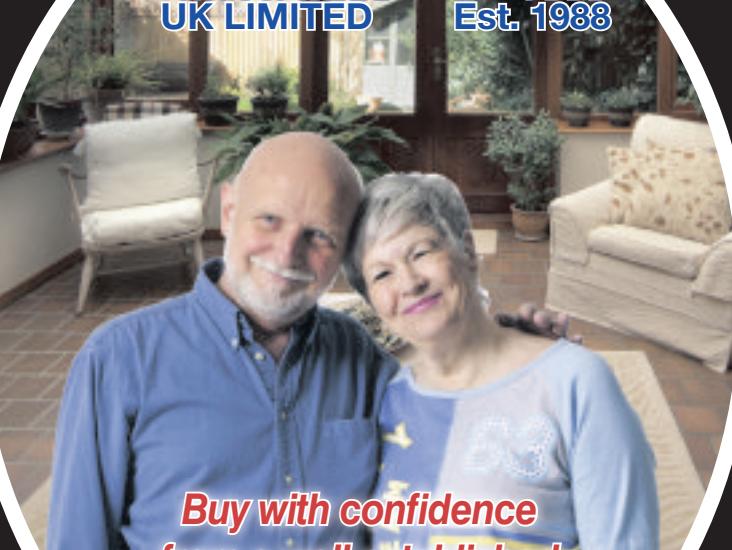
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## NEWS

# £450,000 breathes new life into derelict homes

A HOME refurbishment programme has breathed new life into nine derelict houses in the Dudley borough.

The £450,000 programme, run by Dudley Council and Black Country Housing Group, has seen nine houses transformed and brought back into use.

About three per cent of houses in England are empty.

Helen Phipps, one of the first tenants at one of the Hill Top Stourbridge houses, said: "It's great to be able to move into a property which has been refurbished to a really good standard."

"We approached the council about down-sizing from our previous property and have been able to move in very quickly."

The nine houses are in Halesowen, Brierley Hill and Stourbridge and each house was rewired, fitted with new kitchens, bathrooms and heating systems as well as having the grounds landscaped.

Rebecca Stevens, development manager at Black Country Housing Group, said: "Giving these properties a new lease of life not only provides much-needed affordable accommodation for people across the borough, it also helps to improve street scenes for neighbours because many of these properties had been empty for many years."

The news comes as Dudley Council's cabinet prepares to look at a possible £550,000 boost to renovate empty homes across the region. For the last two years Dudley Council has allocated the amount to support private sector housing grants and loans to bring empty residential properties back into use. It has been proposed that this fund be made available each year.

### MU to hold annual meet

HAGLEY Mothers' Union branch will hold its annual meeting on February 21 at 2.30pm at St Saviour's Church Hall, and on March 21, the Rev David Blackburn will give a Lent talk to the group, at the same time and place.

## Age is no barrier on day



Volunteer Julie Willets, visitor Geoff Little and dance teacher Miana

FANCY footwork was the order of the day at an event hosted by Age UK in Brierley Hill.

Ballroom classes were among the activities at Brierley Hill Methodist Church. More than 100 took part in activities which included table tennis, indoor bowls, Tai Chi and Zumba.

The knitting and crochet group also demonstrated their skills. Counselling services were available

so people could get advice on health matters and other local services. There was the chance to try food including samples from Wiltshire Farm Foods. Women were also able to enjoy a manicure. The event was organised by the Age UK Dudley Springboard project.

Fran Cartwright, from Age UK Dudley, said around 113 people attended the event.

"It went very well," she said.

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## NEWS

# £34,000 grant is to be used to recruit archivist

A £34,000 grant will pay for an archivist to be recruited to catalogue historic papers belonging to the Lyttelton family of Hagley Hall.

Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service has been awarded the cash to fund the project. The papers include details of the estate at Hagley and the family's worldwide activities.

The papers include details of the estate at Hagley and the international activities of the Lytteltons as governor of Jamaica and a 'founder' of the New Zealand state.

During the eighteenth century the Lyttelton family had links with the West Indies, America and the court martial of Admiral Byng in 1756. He was executed by firing squad "for failing to do his utmost" to stop his ship, the Minorca, being lost to the French.

Later family members were closely linked with former prime minister William Gladstone and leading late Victorian politicians and socialites.

Christopher Charles Lyttelton, the 12th Viscount Cobham inherited the family home in 2008. The archives also include the manuscript of the first county history of Worcestershire.

This was written by Thomas Habington in the early 1600s, which is said to be a significant document in the early years of historical writing. A qualified archivist will be recruited by Worcestershire County Council and he will be based at The Hive, Worcester.

## Red rose road campaign

A ROAD safety campaign is being launched in the region for Valentine's Day aimed at young drivers. During Valentine's week, road safety officers from Dudley, Wolverhampton, Walsall and Sandwell councils, with West Midlands Fire Service, will display 202 red roses at local colleges. Each red rose represents a young person killed or seriously injured in the West Midlands in the last year.



Adrian Gregson, Archival Manager at The Hive, holding the 17th century Habington Manuscript the first history of Worcestershire

# Transformations

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**A**CUTTING-EDGE development to help resolve the stability problems faced by thousands of denture wearers is being offered by the Denture Clinic.

Denturist Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng), who heads the teams at his North Street practice in Dudley and other clinics in Wolverhampton and Bearwood, says the invention has the potential to resolve issues with the poor stabilisation of dentures.

Prosthetics are held in place by tiny valve-operated suction devices which are built into the prescription. A clever diaphragm principle, triggered by the bite pressure on patients' gums, creates a 'sucking' vacuum between the soft-tissue mouth lining and the prosthetic.

Mr Burchell, whose clinics attract patients from as far as Spain, the Isle of Skye and the Isle of Anglesey, adds: "The den-

ture revolution is evolving at a pace. In recent times we have seen what I can describe only as strident steps forward with implant-retained dentures coming into main-stream dentistry, clever technology which allows excellent fitting outcomes and now the Ultra Suction product.

"Implant dentistry is not suitable for everyone, neither is it all patients' first preference.

### 'Toolbox'

"The beauty of this technology is that it can offer for the right patient excellent denture retainer qualities without the complex clinical procedures required for implant work.

"We have always endeavoured to be on the very cusp of clinical development and this is another tool in our commitment to always try to deliver results which are greater than patient expectations."

Historically, lower dentures can

present stability problems as the jaw bone erodes with age. With traditional dentures this can cause lower teeth to move and create painful friction problems on gums.

Mr Burchell adds: "The device can be mounted on upper or lower palates and because of its efficiency allows us to consider a reduction in the size of the acrylic 'plate' which can result in improved speech and taste.

"The Ultra Suction kit increases the options in our clinical 'toolbox' and can provide affordable solutions to many patients who would not wish to pursue the stability resolve with implants.

"I remain passionate about the transformations good prosthetics can achieve."

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## ADVERTISEMENT

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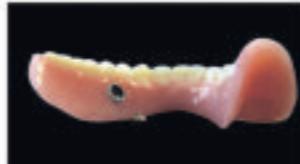
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The Ultra Suction system is available for both new prescriptions and reline dentures

Betty is free from pain after having implants

A WOMAN who had suffered years of pain with two jaw conditions has finally found relief after undergoing dental implant surgery.

Betty had worn dentures for many years but developed neuralgia and her trigeminal nerve had become inflamed.

"I had terrible jaw pain and suffered pins and needles in the side of my head and tongue. It's a terrible condition. I'd had an MRI scan and had seen a specialist, but was still without relief," she says.

Clinical dental technician Mr Burchell had made dentures for Betty seven years ago and she returned to his clinic to inquire about a new prescription because the lower denture had lost its stability.

"I had put up with the floating effect of my lower denture and needed to address the problem. My lower gum had receded so much my denture was pressing down on a nerve and causing me pain," she adds.

"Steven explained the benefits of implant-retained dentures and told me it would allow my bite to be opened some more. Since having the implants on my lower denture, I have experienced no more pain."

Mr Burchell said all dentures have a shelf life and Betty's denture problem was due to shrinkage of her gums – a naturally occurring aging process.

"We hoped for an improved outcome on her condition, but never dreamed that the final clinical result could be so rewarding with Betty being free from pain," he adds.

The Denture Clinic is at 82 Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton, WV1 4TF. Don't suffer any longer – call 01902 539300 for a free consultation. We can also be found at the Fresh Dental practice, 4 St Mary's Road, Bearwood, Birmingham, B67 5DG. Call 01384 348594 to book an appointment

# star extra TRAVEL

## ROBBIE WILLIAMS

Wednesday, June 19  
Etihad Stadium, Manchester  
Day excursion from £99.95

After three spectacular sell-out shows at London's O2 Arena in November, Robbie Williams is to perform at Manchester's Etihad Stadium next June.

One of the world's most successful recording artists, with a record 17 Brit Awards, 10 UK number one albums and seven UK number one singles including Angels and Millennium, the Take That star is expected to perform tracks from his recent album Take the Crown, which went straight in at number one along with its lead single Candy, the fast-selling male artist single of 2012.

Book with Omega for a chance to see two of the UK's biggest stars on the same bill in one of the highlight shows of 2013. Olly Murs is special guest. Let them entertain you!

### Price includes:

- General Admission (unreserved seats or standing) for the concert at the Etihad Stadium, Manchester
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Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

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## REVIEWS

### Eeh-bard-gum tale on tour



Emma Noakes, as Perdita, and Gavin Fowler, as Florizel, in Shakespeare's The Winter's Tale, at Stratford then on tour Picture: RSC

The Winter's Tale, RSC, Stratford, then on tour

THE Winter's Tale is one of Shakespeare's least enjoyable plays, an uneasy blend of tragedy and comedy, but a strong cast invest the Royal Shakespeare Company's new version with emotional intensity.

Director Lucy Bailey has moved the play to the 19th century, with the wealthy inhabitants of Sicilia portrayed as Pre-Raphaelite romantics whilst Bohemia becomes a northern seaside resort with clog-dancing Morris men and rowdy wakes week revellers. The seaside setting is enhanced by video effects and a huge metal helter-skelter/lighthouse.

The play is a story of jealousy, as King Leontes of Sicilia sets in motion a terrible chain of events when he accuses his pregnant wife of adultery with the King of Bohemia. Jo Stone-Fewings was in

turts menacing and pathetic as the maniac monarch, causing the audience to gasp with shock when he punched his queen in the stomach.

Husky-voiced Tara Fitzgerald, in her first RSC role, was outstanding as the wrongly maligned queen, her eyes filling with tears of anger and grief at her rough treatment.

Strong support came from Rakie Ayola as the one lady of court prepared to stand up to the bullying king and Emma Noakes as the aleswiggling banished princess, who has grown up to speak with an eeh-bard-gum accent.

The Winter's Tale, running for three and a half hours, is a strange choice to take on tour but the performances are reason enough to catch it. It continues at Stratford until February 23 and the tour includes run at Stoke-on-Trent's Regent Theatre from April 16 to 20.

Leon Burakowski.

### Eccentric steampunk blues

Ethan Johns,  
Glee Club, Birmingham

IT wouldn't be too harsh to call music producer turned singer/songwriter Ethan Johns eccentric.

The Surrey-born performer, who has spent many years in America is on tour promoting his solo album If Not Now Then When? His mixture of old school protest songs and Seasick Steve-style street blues went down extremely well with his fans at the sold-out venue.

He shared the stage with what appeared to be a Heath Robinson-created upright piano which seemed to pay homage to steampunk but the purpose of which was never fully realised. His performance involved an iPhone as a drummer and lo-tech reel-to-reel tape player.

Johns provided an interesting mix of styles. His ability as a musician is beyond question but his skill as a raconteur needs a lot of work.

Danny Farragher

### Osmonds stars of this Boogie night

Boogie Nights, Civic Hall, Wolverhampton  
ONE Direction are the hottest boyband in the world right now but will they still get the fans screaming in the year 2053?

I ask because the Osmonds appeared at Wolverhampton Civic Hall in 70s show Boogie Nights. There were only three - Jimmy, Jay and Merrill - but the mere mention of their name produced near-hysteria. The group had their first hit - One Bad Apple - in 1970 but the fans have stayed loyal. As they sang, it was to a backdrop of a video of their career. Their contribution consisted of hits such as Proud One and Crazy Horses.

The show also starred Gareth Gates, Shane Richie Junior, Louisa Lytton, Andy Abraham and Chico. Richie was Roddy who cheated on girlfriend Debs (Louisa Lytton) and she ended up marrying his best mate Dean (Gareth Gates). Richie was more interested in becoming a rock star and that's where the Osmonds fitted in - as they offered him the chance to open one of their concerts. This was all played out to a backdrop of the disco hits of the 70s.

Former X Factor star Andy Abraham out-sang the others, especially on You're My Everything. Gareth Gates shone as he stood in for Donny to sing Puppy Love.

Tony Attwater

### Quirky ballet was a gust of fresh air

Matthew Bourne's Sleeping Beauty, Birmingham Hippodrome

WITH choreographer Matthew Bourne in charge there was no way this favourite tale was ever going to include a cutsey chittering and a spinning wheel.

He didn't disappoint. We had a robotic baby climbing up the curtain, a traveletor, vampires, hoodies and magnificent costumes and props taking us from 1890 right up to 2013.

Bourne gave us the classical spiked with humour and a gust of fresh air - not many serious ballet performances are met with gales of laughter even fewer have puppets knocking seven bells out of the cast.

We lapped up Bourne's trademark quirkiness, revelling in the straight leg lifts, the hands cupped behind necks and absence of ballet shoe ribbons and were joyfully overwhelmed with both the scenery and mastery of the whole performance.

Sarah Cowen-Strong

star extra TRAVEL

**CATS**  
in Manchester

Day excursion, Saturday 13 April 2013

Don't miss CATS, Andrew Lloyd-Webber's extraordinary record-breaking, smash-hit musical as it returns to Manchester.

Adapted from TS Eliot's 'Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats', this wonderful blend of fantasy, drama and romance is set on the night that the Jellicle Cats meet for the Jellicle Ball in a sparkling fusion of music, dance and verse.

With an amazing musical score that includes the timeless "Memory", spectacular set designs, stunning costumes and breathtaking choreography, CATS is a magical musical like no other.

One of the longest-running shows in West End and Broadway history, CATS has enchanted audiences in over 300 cities around the world - now you too have the chance to experience this legendary musical phenomenon.

- A Gallery seat with a face value of £27.50 for the matinee performance of Cats at the Opera House Theatre, Manchester. Please note the Gallery is high with steep steps - if you wish to upgrade to Circle seats with a face value of £32, there is a supplement of £5pp
- Free time in Manchester
- Return coach travel from Dudley, Walsall & Wolverhampton

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Organised by Omega Holidays, ABTA V4782. Subject to availability.

## NEWS

# Awfully pleased to visit – at least you're not Rhyl

THE British obsession with the worst things in life is a national pursuit along with queuing and tea, which is why Tim Moore's latest travelogue will appeal to many.

You Are Awful (But I Like You): Travels Through Unloved Britain, is an account of the London author's trip around what have been labelled some of the country's worst towns and cities by studies put together by research groups.

This book will make you laugh right from the start, with his choice of transport being an old Austin Montego, named Ozzy, that was designed in Longbridge but built in Bulgaria.

## Walsall

Black Country folk may be surprised that Walsall was on his itinerary.

Apparently Tim decided to visit because a survey found Walsall to be Britain's most depressed town.

He braves the A34 and goes to the town's leather museum.

But take heart, Walsall folk, in an interview with The Chronicle, Tim reveals was one of his favourite stops.

He said: "In comparison to some of the places I went to, Walsall felt like the French Riviera. It was actually



Travel writer Tim Moore



The cover of his book on unfashionable Britain

doing something with itself, went to. The town had invested loads of money into developing itself by knocking down a lot of beautiful Victorian architecture and building a horrible B&Q. The town died soon after."

Each town is a subject for wry humour though in each place he visits he manages to find a glimmer of hope – except maybe for one faded North Wales seaside resort.

Tim said: "Rhyl was easily the most depressing place I

went to. The town had invested loads of money into developing itself by knocking down a lot of beautiful Victorian architecture and building a horrible B&Q. The town died soon after."

This book should be considered a collection of short stories linked by a common theme.

Tom Mason



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Day excursion, Saturday 8 June 2013

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You'll have the time of your life.

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Dudley  
Metropolitan Borough Council

# star extra TRAVEL

## South Africa

South Africa is a country five times the size of Britain and it has so much to offer the visitor, including breath-taking wildlife, stunning scenery, a huge sense of history, bustling cities plus first class food and wine.

The holiday includes 13 nights bed and breakfast accommodation in specially selected three and four-star hotels, three evening meals and a variety of stunning excursions.

For most visitors the highlight will be a full day's game drive that brings the chance to see the sweeping savannah and muddy waterholes lined with animals, and to marvel at the incredible 150 mammal and 500 bird species that live in the Kruger National Park, including the 'big five': elephant, lion, rhino, leopard and buffalo. Rooms are reserved at the three-star superior Hippo Hollow Country Estate, located in the midst of lush forest on the banks of the Sabie River. Its open-air terrace overlooks the grounds and river, so watch out for the hippos!

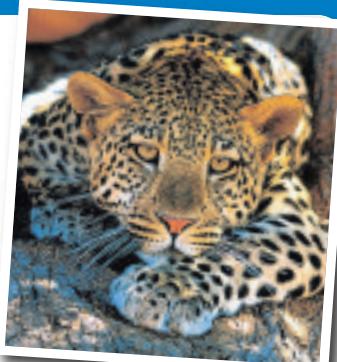
Those interested in history will be intrigued by the visit to Zululand, passing through Swaziland en route, to reach the haunting battlefields of Isandlwana and Rorke's Drift. In 1879 these two battles, just a day apart, became a defining moment for the British Empire and the specialist Zulu guide will make those desperate encounters come alive.

A well-organised schedule of tours combined with free time in Cape Town, Johannesburg, in Knysna on the coast and at the Kruger National Park means everyone will experience the very heart of South Africa on this 16-day adventure.

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varies according to departure date - please go to website for the latest availability and prices

## CLUB NEWS

Florist's  
blooming  
good talk

### INNER WHEEL OF PENKRIDGE



Julie Brooks during her talk  
JULIE Brooks, of Lavender Florist in the village, joined forces with Penkridge Inner Wheel to raise more than £1,000 for local charities.

She delighted a capacity audience at the Peace Memorial Hall with her demonstration of 15 fantastic arrangements, with tips along the way for beginners and experts alike. Inner Wheel members provided drinks and home-made mince pies and ensured the smooth running of a very happy evening.

Ladies attending were very generous in their support of the raffle. The prize was Julie's lovely flowers.

Penkridge Inner Wheel would like to offer sincere thanks to Julie and her team for their expertise, hard work and time.

Charities supported this year have and will include Riverside House, Penkridge, the Pathway Project, Burntwood, Katharine House Hospice, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, Help For Heroes and the Air Ambulance.

## Walk cash given to Alzheimer's Society



President Jan Weston, right, presents a cheque for £1,877 to Mrs Emma Dowling

### INNER WHEEL CLUB OF SEDGLEY & WOMBOURNE

AT their monthly meeting President Jan Weston of the Inner Wheel Club of Sedgley & Wom Bourne presented a cheque for £1,877 to Mrs Emma Dowling from Alzheimer's Society. This amount was raised by a sponsored walk by members of the club.

## Guest was hole-ly amusing

### BISHOP'S WOOD WI

chuckled, gasped and were generally enthralled by

Kay's descriptions - and her stunning slides - of her latest trip around America.

The main topic was "holes" which had been caused by erosion, mete-

rites or man.

Kay's favourite "hole"

was the Grand Canyon as

she spoke movingly about the impression that the vastness of the canyon had on her.

The next two meetings are

on February 19 when Jonathon Nunn will talk about the Life of a Modern Farrier and on March 19

when Jackie Roberts, the chocolate tailor will speak about the secrets of chocolate making.

Meetings start at 8pm in the village hall.

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## NEWS

# Borough sees 'worrying' 20pc increase in TB cases

THE number of cases of tuberculosis in Sandwell has increased by 20 per cent in the past year.

Council chiefs suggest the increase, from 103 to 123 cases, is due to the number of people coming from areas of the world where TB is common.

They are more at risk to developing the disease, due to the reactivation of previous exposure, according to a report to Sandwell's cabinet member for health and commissioning, Councillor Paul Moore.

The report says the number of cases has "worryingly increased".

It says people arriving in Sandwell may be symptom-free on arrival, but have been infected with the bacteria in their home country. This is called latent TB.

## Infection

One in 10 healthy but infected people will progress to active disease in their lifetime usually within five years of contracting the infection, the report says.

Councillor Moore said TB screening was a top priority since the council had taken over responsibility for public health.

He said: "It is a big priority for us over the next three years. We will not only continue with the screening we do at the moment, but we will be looking at ways we can go above and beyond what we already do to tackle the problem."

Cases of TB in Walsall rose from 47 in 2010 to 68 in 2011, but dropped to 48 in 2012. In Wolverhampton the number rose from 82 in 2010 to 92 in 2011, but officials are expecting it to decrease in 2012.

## Ryan fights his way to title



Kickboxer Ryan Davies, aged 20, who has just added to his title collection

A KICKBOXING instructor in Oldbury has fought his way to another national title. Ryan Davies already held the ISKA World and English titles in the full contact under 70kg categories.

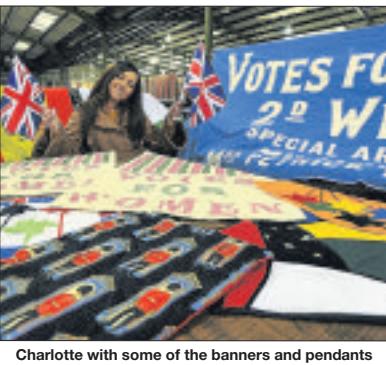
And now the 20-year-old from Tividale is a British champion too, after emerging victorious in a five-round, full-contact fight in Birmingham.

Wayne Stokes, Ryan's teacher at the School of Blackbelts in Oldbury, said: "I am so proud." The fight was set up by the governing body, the International Sport Kickboxing Association.

## Olympic ceremonies memorabilia goes on sale in the Black Country



Internet sales manager Charlotte Cassidy with the items



Charlotte with some of the banners and pendants



Banners used by suffragettes in the opening ceremony

## A SLICE of Olympic history has gone on sale.

Props and other equipment used in the London opening and closing ceremonies have gone to auction in Wednesday.

More than 70 lorries of memorabilia, furniture and equipment from the London 2012 games has been stored at a 66,000sq ft warehouse in the town.

And two of three auctions taking place this week. The sale is being staged by BFC Furniture Outlet.

Two more sales will be held next Wednesday and Thursday, at the firm's premises in Bull Lane, with about 3,000

lots up for grabs in all. The auctions will take place from 11am to 5pm on both days due to the sheer number of lots.

They were bought by the company, which is run by 59-year-old Jim Cassidy of Bloxwich.

## Nightmare

He explained that he struck a deal with the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) but it had been a "logistical nightmare" to move all the items to Wednesday.

The lots include props used by Take That for their performances at the closing ceremony, including drums, closing

large Alice in Wonderland-style clocks and drinking vessels.

There are also 200 safes, flags used during the suffragette section of the opening ceremony, banners sent in by children from around the world, beds used by the athletes, and furniture.

Other lots include high visibility jackets, hard hats, floodlights, parasols and clothing with the 2012 logo.

Mr Cassidy said securing the items had been a real coup for the company.

"This is a little piece of history and I am glad people have the chance to buy it," he said.

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## What's On! Halesowen

### The incredible Mr Fox's work show

THE Fox Sketchbook is an exhibition which will be celebrating works that have been recently received by Dudley Museum and Art Gallery.

The works, by local artist Ernest Fox, include a small sketch book which was found in a charity shop in Kent where Mr Fox's address was noticed.

Mr Fox was working in Dudley during the 1880s and a highlight of his work shows the view from Castle Hill towards Tipton as it looked at the time.

The museum already has two other paintings by the artist.

The exhibition runs until March 9 and admission is free.

### Children's tale of owl and owl with fear

THE Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark is aimed at children aged between three and seven and is based on a story by Jill Tomlinson.

The story is brought to life with music and puppets.

The show will be staged at Stourbridge Town Hall on Thursday February 21 at 1.30pm.

Tickets are £8 for adults, £6 for children and a family of four is £25.

### Soul group show

THE Soul Survivors are playing Dudley Town Hall on Saturday February 16. The group will be dishing up classic soul and R'n'B from 7.30pm. Tickets for the show are £14.

# Rat's the way to celebrate as Rep unveils dark fantasy

BIRMINGHAM Rep continues its centenary celebrations with the premiere of a new adaptation for the stage of Philip Pullman's dark children's fantasy *I Was A Rat!*

### A royal role for Tennant



David Tennant – new role

DAVID Tennant is to return to the Royal Shakespeare Company to star in the lead role of Richard II.

The former Doctor Who actor won acclaim for his performance as Hamlet in 2008 and the RCS production went on to be screened by the BBC.

He will appear in the historical drama in October at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford, before transferring to the Barbican in London.

The play, brought to the stage by Italian director Teresa Ludovico, opened this week and runs at the Old Rep Theatre in Station Street until March 2, before touring the UK.

The Rep's previous adaptation of a work by the popular children's writer, Philip Pullman's *His Dark Materials*, was a huge success with adults and children alike in 2009.

Other theatre highlights in the region are dominated by ballet over the coming week.

David Bintley's magical version of *Aladdin* has its UK premiere by the Birmingham Royal Ballet at the Birmingham Hippodrome from tomorrow (Friday) until February 23. Created for the National Ballet of Japan in 2008, it promises to be a spectacular production.

Meanwhile, the Russian State Ballet and Orchestra of Siberia perform *The Nutcracker* at Wolverhampton Grand on Sunday, at 4pm, then *Coppelia* on Monday and *Swan Lake* twice on Tuesday.

## If music be the food of love, play on



Crazy For You – married couples Lyndon Flavell and Clair Kramer and Leon and Rachael Davies prepare for West Bromwich Operatic Society's spring production, being staged at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre in April

A SHARED love of the stage blossomed into romance for two couples who are members of West Bromwich Operatic Society (WBOS).

Love is definitely in the air at the society, and not just because of Valentine's Day, as the group prepares to stage its production in April. And the name of the show, *Crazy For You*, could not be more appropriate.

Leading lady Claire Kramer, 33, and her partner Lyndon Flavell, 37, first met after he attended *La Cage Aux Folies* performed by the society in

2009. Their relationship blossomed and Mr Flavell, a firefighter at Ladywood Fire Station, joined the group in 2010. The couple, from Spring Hill Grove, Penn, got engaged over Christmas. They already have a 15-month-old daughter named Eliza.

Dance teacher Claire, who will star as Polly Baker in the next show, said: "Without the society we would never have got together."

Society members Leon and Rachel Davies met as children when they both became involved in amateur theatre.

The couple, from Meadow Croft, Hagley, celebrated 14 years of their relationship earlier this month. They married in 2005 and have two children Ethan, four, and Darcy, one. Mr Davies, a lecturer at Aston University, became involved with WBOS in 1998 and his wife, who teaches singing, became a member in 2005. He is taking the lead role of Bobby Child in the latest show.

*Crazy For You* is being staged at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from April 23 to 27. For tickets call 01902 429212.

### Keeping children occupied in break

HOLIDAY programmes have been set up at Dudley Leisure Centre aiming to keep the children entertained during the half-term break.

Between Monday February 18 and Friday February 22 the Wellington Road centre will run football, dance, t-shirt designing and trixie biking for children aged eight to 14 years.

Each day of activities cost £15 per child and must be booked and prepaid for more information about the activities contact 01384 812 800 or go to the Dudley Council website.

Children attending the centre will also need to bring their own packed lunch.

### Jethro brings his humour to hall

CORNWALL'S ambassador of comedy is crossing the county line once again to entertain Dudley residents at the town hall.

Jethro is presenting a stand-up show suitable for people aged over 18 only on Saturday February 23 at 7.30pm.

Tickets are £19.

### Show cancelled

MARK Thomas' *Bravo Figaro* show at Stourbridge Town Hall which was scheduled for Friday February 15 has been cancelled. People who have already bought tickets will be contacted.

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# What's On!

## SATURDAY'S TV 16.02.13

### CHOICE



**Eddie Izzard**

### Funny Business

#### BBC2, 10.30pm

The first episode of this series was shown at the beginning of January, only for viewers to then be left hanging for a month. However, if you're still interested, this second edition, which focuses on the role of managers and agents, should be worth the wait. Eddie Izzard, David Baddiel, Rhod Gilbert and Jo Brand are among the stand-ups giving us an insight into what it takes to succeed, but anyone who thinks that previous generations of performers weren't quite so concerned about the financial aspects of showbusiness could be in for a surprise.

### BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** The Good Cook. (R) **12.00** BBC News: Regional News. **12.15** Football Focus. **1.00** Live Athletics. **4.30** Final Score. **5.10** Animal Antics. **5.40** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **6.00** Pointless Celebrities. Charity edition, with Martin Offiah and Phil Tufnell, Mark Bright and Martin Pistorius, Sarah Millican and Pete Reed, and John Parrott and Hazel Irvine, Alexander Armstrong hosts. **6.50** Let's Dance for Comic Relief. New series. Comedian Tim Vine, ex-EastEnders Natalie Cassidy and boxing star Ricky Hatton are among the celebs vying for charity. Hosted by Alex Jones and Steve Jones.

**8.10** The National Lottery: In It to Win It. Dale Winton presents the quiz in which five contestants pit their wits to scoop a big cash prize. Includes the National Lottery draw, presented by Matt Johnson.

**9.00** Casualty. Ash takes charge as the flu epidemic continues.

**9.50** Mrs Brown's Boys. Agnes is excited about Rory's big day – until she meets the wedding planner. Last in the series. (R)

**10.20** BBC News: Weather.

**10.40** Kevin Bridges – The Story So Far. A performance from Giggleswick Sports Arena filmed in 2010. (R) National Lottery Update.

**11.40** The Football League Show. Highlights of today's games in the Football League.

12.55 Weatherview. **1.00** BBC News.

### BBC2

**6.00** Close. **7.30** Great British Menu. (R) **8.30** Great British Menu. (R) **9.00** Great British Menu. (R) **9.30** Great British Menu. (R) **10.00** A History of Britain by Simon Schama. (R) **11.00** Meet the Ancestors. (R) **11.30** Map Man. (R) **12.00** Indian Food Made Easy. (R) **12.30** MasterChef: The University Challenge. (R) **1.30** Talking Pictures. (R) **2.00** University Challenge. (R) **2.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **11.20** Saturday Cookbook. (R) **12.20** ITV News: Weather. **12.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **1.25** My Tasty Travels with Lynne. (R) **2.00** The Great British Dinner Date. (R) **3.30** The Celebrity Special. (R) **4.30** You've Been Framed! (R) **5.00** Regional Programme: Weather. **5.15** ITV News: Weather. **5.30** Live FA Cup Football.

**6.00** Swinging into the Blitz: A Culture Show Special. Clemency Burton-Hill interviews a host of the Caribbean immigrants who brought swing music to Britain, including trumpeter Leslie Thompson and bandleader Ken "Snakehips" Johnson.

**7.00** Top Gear. Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May against Jamie May and Richard Hammond, who take the pan-European rail network, in a sprint from London to Milan. (R)

**8.00** Dad's Army. The vicar enlists in the Home Guard. (R)

**8.30** Flight of the Rhino: Natural World. Film following a scheme to move 100 rhinos to relocate black rhinos away from the threat of poachers, using helicopters to carry the endangered animals to a new site.

**9.30** Howard Goodall's Story of Music. The composer examines the middle to late 19th century.

**10.30** Money Business. The roles played by comedians' managers and agents.

**11.30** Film: The Infidel. (2010) Comedy, starring Omid Djalili.

### ITV

**6.00** CITV: Handy Manny. **6.10** Handy Manny. **6.25** The Hive. (R) **6.35** The Hive. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Dino Dan. (R) **7.15** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.30** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.40** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **8.05** Ultimatum: Spider-Man. **8.30** Victoria. (R) **9.00** Jesse. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **11.20** Saturday Cookbook. (R) **12.20** ITV News: Weather. **12.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **1.25** My Tasty Travels with Lynne. (R) **2.00** The Great British Dinner Date. (R) **3.30** The Celebrity Special. (R) **4.30** You've Been Framed! (R) **5.00** Regional Programme: Weather. **5.15** ITV News: Weather. **5.30** Live FA Cup Football.

**8.05** Take Me Out. A tailor, a fitness model, a tattoo artist and a florist compete for the love of a man in the hope of impressing 30 single women. Paddy McGuinness presents the dating show.

**9.20** The Jonathan Ross Show. The host chats to presenting duo Ant and Dec about life on and off screen. Tim Roth discusses his new film The Liability and American pop star Kesha performs live in the studio.

**10.20** ITV News: Weather.

**10.35** FA Cup Football Highlights. Action from the opening fifth-round fixtures, which were Luton Town v Millwall, Arsenal v Burnley, Millenium Dons v Barnsley and Oldham Athletic v Everton.

**11.50** The Big Sports Quiz – Boys v Girls. (R)

**12.40** Jackpot247. **3.00** In Plain Sight. (R) **3.45** ITV Nightscreen.

### CHANNEL 4

**6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** Will & Grace. (R) **7.30** Football Short: Kingsman Show. (R) **8.00** Football Short: Kingsman Show. (R) **8.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.50** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.20** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.15** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** Secret Millionaire Ireland. (R) **1.50** Channel 4 Racing. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.45** Come Dine with Me. (R)

**6.20** Come Dine with Me. Sue and Mark host the night in East Ham. Sue, hoping to impress her guests with a Caribbean-themed dinner party, before the winner of the £1,000 prize is announced. (R)

**6.50** Channel 4 News.

**7.10** 4Thought.tv.

**7.15** Film: Porridge. (1979) Cellmates Fletcher and Godwin are forced into aiding an escape attempt and then have to break back in.

**9.00** World Without End. Godwyn throws Caris out of the couple and sentences her to be burned at a witch, and Thomas rallies the townspeople when Edward's army surrounds Kingsbridge. Last in the series.

**10.55** Film: AVPR: Aliens vs Predator – Requiem. (2007) Sci-fi action sequel, starring Stephen Rea.

**12.50** Film: Get Rich or Die Tryin'. (2005) **2.45** A Ninja Is for Life, Not Just for Christmas. (R) **2.50** Hollyoaks. **5.00** Countdown. (R) **5.45** Baking Mad with Eric Lanlard.

### CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake! **10.00** Power Rangers Samurai. (R) **10.35** Batman: The Brave and the Bold. **11.00** Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back. (R) **12.05** Dangerous Drivers: School. (R) **1.05** Film: Black Widow. (2008) **2.50** Film: A River Runs Through It. (1992) **5.05** News Weekend. **5.10** Film: Columbus: Prescription for Disaster. (1988) Crime drama starring Peter Falk.

**7.10** CSI: NY. The bodies of two scuba divers are found in the East River. (R)

**7.55** NCIS. As Christmas approaches, the team works overtime to solve a robbery – a case made doubly difficult by the fact that the suspect has supposedly been dead for 17 years. (R)

**8.50** NCIS. McGee is sent to a women's prison to interview a murder suspect, but ends up being captured and held hostage by the inmates, who are afraid they will be blamed for killing a guard. (R)

**9.50** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. The boyfriend of a missing woman implicates her ex-con neighbour – who Stabler helped put in prison 19 years earlier. Guest starring Stephen Rea.

**10.50** Law & Order: Criminal Intent. Nichols takes on a crime boss when a detective is killed.

**11.45** True Crimes: The First 72 Hours. Authorities begin a night-time operation to catch a sexual predator. (R)

**12.15** SuperCasino. **4.00** Divine Busters. (R) **4.25** Divine Busters. **4.40** The Cuckoo's Secret. (R) **5.05** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.15** The Milkshake Show. (R) **5.40** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

### DIGITAL

#### BBC Three

**7.00** Merlin. **7.45** Doctor Who. **8.35** Film: National Treasure (2004)

**10.35** City's Got Talent. **9.00** American Dad!

#### BBC Four

**7.00** Cultural World: Unnatural History of London. **8.00** Baroque!

From St Peter's to St Paul's. **9.00** Spiral 4: State of Terror. **10.45** Duets at the BBC. **11.45** Love Songs at the BBC. **12.00** A Valentine's Day Special

#### ITV2

**3.20** Film: Garfield (2004) **5.00** You've Been Framed! **7.00** Film: Mamma Mia! (2008) **9.20** Take Me Out – The Gossip (2005) **10.50** Film: The Chronicles of Riddick (2004)

#### ITV3

**2.45** Agatha Christie's Marple. **4.50** Lewis. **6.50** Doc Martin. **9.00** Midsomer Murders. **11.00** Film: The Birds (1963)

#### ITV4

**2.40** Film: The Rare Breed (1966) **4.40** Film: Aces High (1976) **7.00** TT Legends. **7.30** GT Academy. **8.00** TT Race Monsters: Untold Stories

**9.00** River Monsters: Killer Weapons. **10.05** Film: On Deadly Ground (1994)

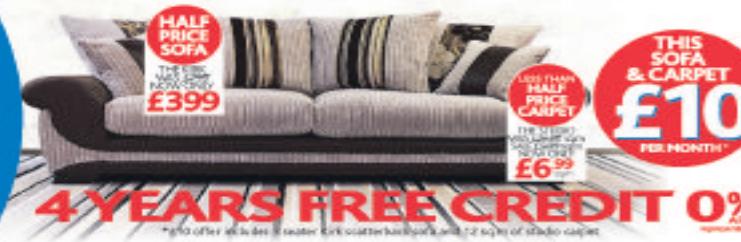
#### ITV

**3.35** Rules of Engagement. **6.00** The Big Bang Theory. **7.00** Happy Endings. **8.00** How I Met Your Mother. **8.30** 2 Broke Girls. **9.00** Film: Joy Ride (2001) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory

#### Film4

**3.00** Horton Hears a Who! (2008) **4.40** Cutthroat Island (1995) **7.00** X-Men (2000) **9.00** Mutant outside, normal inside. **10.00** The Human Centipede (2009) **11.00** To the Moon (2009) **12.00** The Human Centipede 2 (2011) **1.00** The Human Centipede 3 (2012)

**1.30** The Human Centipede 4 (2013) **2.00** The Human Centipede 5 (2014)



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## What's On!

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## SUNDAY'S TV 17.02.13

## CHOICE



Professor Brian Cox

## Wonders of Life

## BBC2, 9pm

Many of us may take trees for granted, but there's little danger of that after the latest 59-minute lecture from Professor Brian Cox. He reveals the largest things that ever lived on Earth weren't dinosaurs or blue whales but trees. The Mountain Ash is the largest flowering plant in the world, and Brian is in awe of his 80-metre-high co-stars, some of which can live to more than 300 years, but did you know there are limits to how big each tree can get? In Australia, Brian explains how the laws of physics govern all living things, from a 100-metre-tall tree to the smallest bacterium cell.

## BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast: **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **11.00** Sunday Politics: Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.25** Countryfile. (R) **1.20** Call the Midwife. **3.20** Escape to the Country. **4.20** Lifeline. **4.30** Songs of Praise. **5.05** Penguins – Spy in the Huddle. (R) **6.05** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **6.30** Blandings. Clarence gets a new admirer. Last in the series. **7.00** Countryfile. Adam Henson finds the best local produce near his Cotswolds farm and presents archive food-related items, including a Yorkshire pudding battle and fishing for sardines in Cornwall. Including Weather for the Week Ahead. **8.00** Call the Midwife. Trixie volunteers to find a celebrity judge for the baby show at the summer fete, while Jenny tries to help a mother-of-eight distraught after learning she is pregnant again. **9.00** Ripper Street. A chipping young detective arrives in town with his own team of private detectives, who cut a violent swathe through the borough, while Jackson and Susan's past comes back to haunt them. **10.00** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **10.25** Room 101 – Extra Storage. With Bill Turnbull, Ben Miller and Jo Brand. **11.05** Match of the Day 2. **11.35** The Apprentice USA. New series Donald Trump challenges the team to design modern offices. **1.00** Weatherview. **1.05** BBC News.

## BBC2

**6.00** Close. **7.00** Film: The Long Voyage Home. (1940) **8.45** Life in a Gardening Community with Carol Klein. (R) **9.15** A to Z of TV Gardening. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. Cooking with Rachel Khoo. (R) **12.00** EastEnders. (R) **1.50** Coast. **2.00** Great British Food Revival. **2.30** Rick Stein's Mediterranean Escapes. (R) **3.45** Flap It! (R) **4.15** Flight of the Rhine: Nature's World. (R) **5.15** A History of Ancient Britain: Orkney's Stone Age Temple. (R) **6.15** Ski Sunday. The men's World Championship giant slalom from Schladming in Austria. **7.00** Food & Drink. Michel Roux Jr and Kate Goodman are joined by Mary Berry, who join the team to create the perfect afternoon tea and Rachel Khoo celebrates the patisserie in Paris. (R) **7.30** Open All Hours. Comedy, starring Ronnie Barker. (R) **8.00** Top Gear. Jeremy Clarkson puts the new Kia Cee'd through a peculiar road test. Richard Hammond drives the Mastretta MX3, and three high-performance hatchbacks are tested on the track. **9.00** Wonders of Life. Professor Brian Cox travels around Australia to explore how the size of a creature is connected to the physical forces acting on its environment. **10.00** Dancing on the Edge. Louis tells the police he saw Julian at the night of Jessie's attack. (R) **11.05** Film: In the Valley of Elah. (2007) **1.00** Sign Zone: Holby City. (R) **2.00** Being Eileen. (R) **2.30** Close.

## ITV

**6.00** CITV. Handy Manny. **6.10** Handi-Manny. **6.25** The Big Movie. (R) **6.35** The Hive. (R) **6.45** Dimples Dan. (R) **6.55** Dino Dan. (R) **7.05** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.15** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.30** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.40** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **8.05** Rated A for Awesome. **8.15** Rated A for Awesome. **8.30** The Big Game Show. **9.00** The Auditions Survival Show. **9.25** House Guest in the Sun. (R) **10.25** 60 Minute Makeover. (R) **11.30** Live FA Cup Football. **2.15** ITV News: Weather. **2.30** You've Been Framed: Top 100 Animals. (R) **3.30** Live FA Cup Football. **6.05** Regional Programme: Weather. **6.10** ITV News: Weather. **6.15** Dancing on Ice. The six remaining skaters are split into two groups with the most impressive squad having their judges' scores doubled. Phillip Schofield and Christine Bleakley present. **7.45** All Star Family Fortunes. With actress Catherine Tyldesley and presenter Andrea McLean. **8.30** Don't Let the Queen Off. The two lowest-scoring couples battle it out. **9.00** Mr Selfridge. Arthur Conan Doyle persuades Harry to hold a seance in the store. **10.00** ITV News at Ten: Weather. **10.15** FA Cup Football Highlights. Action from today's three fixtures. **11.15** Perspectives: Looking for Lowry. Ian McKellen examines the life of artist LS Lowry. (R) **12.15** Premiership Rugby Union. **1.20** The Store. **3.05** Monk. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

## CHANNEL 4

**6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The House. (R) **6.45** Bill & Grace. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.05** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.05** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.30** Maggie Simpson in London. (R) **2.05** The Simpsons. (R) **2.35** Film:潘朵拉。(2006) **4.20** Time Team. **5.20** Deal or No Deal: Hollywood Heartthrobs. **6.20** Channel 4 News. **6.50** 4Thoughts. **6.55** The Political Slot. Croydon North Labour MP Steve Reed talks to his constituents. **7.00** The Year Britain Flooded. Documentary recalling the appalling weather across the nation in 2012, when high levels of rainfall brought flooding to towns and cities and led to the wettest summer in a century. (R) **8.00** The Hotel. Mark needs a buyer before the end of summer and tries to close a deal with a local hotel magnate, while Alison agrees to take on the role of manager temporarily. Last in the series. **9.00** Consultant. An MI5 officer believes a terror suspect he has been monitoring for three years is planning an imminent attack in the UK. Feature-length drama, with David Oyelowo and Arsher Ali. **10.55** Film: True Lies. (1994) Action comedy, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger. **1.30** Al Murray: My Funniest Year. (R) **2.30** 4Funniest. The Rubberbandits. (R) **3.50** Smallville. (R) **4.30** Deal or No Deal. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake! Peppa Pig. **6.05** Root of the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Film: The Iron Giant. (R) **6.25** Mr. Bean. (R) **6.30** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.45** Olive the Ostrich. (R) **6.50** Abby's Flying Fairy School. (R) **7.00** Roobarts and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.20** Animal Antics. (R) **7.25** The Way of the Ninja. (R) **8.40** Out of Friends. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** Miss Mao. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottie Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.40** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.15** Film: Disney's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.45** Trolls Travelling Circus. (R) **9.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.55** Jelly Jamm. (R) **10.00** Power Rangers Samurai. (R) **10.35** Batman: The Brave and the Bold. **11.10** Looney Tunes. (R) **11.20** Monkey Life. (R) **11.50** Once Upon a Time. (R) **12.00** Film: The Polar Express. (R) **1.50** Film: My Dog Skip. (2000) **3.40** Film: Daddy Day Care. (2003) **5.25** Film: Ace Ventura: Pet Detective. (1994) **6.55** 5 New Weekend. **7.00** Film: Ghostbusters. (1984) Supernatural comedy, with Bill Murray, Dan Aykroyd and Sigourney Weaver. **9.00** Person of Interest. Reese helps a teenager whose brother was killed. **10.00** Film: RocknRolla. (2008) Guy Ritchie's comedy drama, with Jason Statham, Brad Pitt, Benicio Del Toro, Mike Reid and Jason Flemyng. **12.05** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **1.05** SuperCasino. **4.00** HouseBusters. (R) **4.25** Divine Designs. (R) **4.50** County Secrets. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helper. (R) **5.15** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Three** **7.00** Let's Dance for Comic Relief **8.00** Film: National Treasure: Book of Secrets (2007) **10.00** Being Human **11.00** People Like Us **BBC Four** **7.00** The Story of British Pathé **8.00** Harlots, Housewives & Heroines: A 17th Century History for Girls **9.00** Film: The White Ribbon (2009) **11.15** The Beatles' Please Please Me – Remaking a Classic **ITV2** **3.45** Film: Toy Story 2 (1999) **5.35** Film: Jurassic Park (1993) **8.00** Very Best of You've Been Framed! **9.00** Film: Fast & Furious (2009) **11.10** Film: Gremlins (1984) **ITV3** **3.30** Lewis **5.35** Murder, She Wrote **6.00** Agatha Christie's Poirot **8.55** David Jason: The Best of British **10.00** Film: The Pianist (2002) **ITV4** **2.45** Film: Every Which Way But Loose (1978) **6.00** Film: Invitation to a Gunfighter (1964) **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00** Film: Year of the Dragon (1985) **11.45** Film: Mad Max 2 (1981) **ITV5** **2.50** The 7th Voyage of Sinbad (1958) **4.35** Five Children and It (2004) **6.25** Big Fish (2003) **8.50** A Good Day to Die Hard **1.00** Special **9.00** Die Hard 2 (1990) A lone cop battles terrorists who have taken over an airport to force the release of a convicted drug baron. Action thriller sequel, starring Bruce Willis and Bonnie Bedelia. **11.25** Four Brothers (2005) **ITV** **2.50** The 7th Voyage of Sinbad (1958) **4.35** Five Children and It (2004) **6.25** Big Fish (2003) **8.50** A Good Day to Die Hard **1.00** Special **9.00** Die Hard 2 (1990) A lone cop battles terrorists who have taken over an airport to force the release of a convicted drug baron. Action thriller sequel, starring Bruce Willis and Bonnie Bedelia. **11.25** Four Brothers (2005) **ITV** **2.50** The 7th Voyage of Sinbad (1958) **4.35** Five Children and It (2004) **6.25** Big Fish (2003) **8.50** A Good Day to Die Hard **1.00** Special **9.00** Die Hard 2 (1990) A lone cop battles terrorists who have taken over an airport to force the release of a convicted drug baron. 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## What's On!

### Film Choices

#### MONDAY

**A Perfect Getaway**, Channel 5, 11pm  
Newlyweds travel to Hawaii for their honeymoon and go on a hiking expedition to a remote beach along with another couple. However, after hearing stories of a murderous pair stalking the island, they begin to suspect their travelling companions might have sinister plans for them. Thriller, with Milla Jovovich, Steve Zahn, Timothy Olyphant and Kiele Sanchez. (2009)

#### TUESDAY

**The Breakfast Club**, BBC1, 11.55pm

Five teenagers who occupy different areas of their school's social structure are thrown together for a Saturday morning detention. During the day, they analyse their behaviour and find unexpected common ground. Drama, starring Emilio Estevez, Judd Nelson, Molly Ringwald and Anthony Michael Hall. (1985)

#### WEDNESDAY

**Rounders**, BBC1, 11.40pm

A gifted young poker player gives up gambling when he loses all his savings and turns his attention to studying the law. However, when an old friend is released from prison with substantial debts to worry about, he is persuaded to return to the world of high-stakes poker. Drama, starring Matt Damon and Edward Norton. (1998)



Three Kings, Friday, ITV, 10.35pm

#### THURSDAY

**The Magdalene Sisters**, BBC1, 11.35pm

Four young women are sent to a Catholic institution. Two have been rejected by their families for getting pregnant, one has been raped by her cousin, and the other has been thrown out of an orphanage. Made to feel acute shame and disgrace, the girls are put to work in slave labour conditions and endure mental and physical cruelty at the hands of the nuns in charge. Drama, with Geraldine McEwan, Anne-Marie Duff. (2002)

#### FRIDAY

**Three Kings**, ITV, 10.35pm

Four US soldiers stumble upon a fortune in Kuwaiti bullion in the aftermath of the first Gulf War – but agonise over whether to steal the hoard from under the noses of the impoverished local people, who are in desperate need of help. David O Russell's adventure, starring George Clooney and Mark Wahlberg. (1999)

**Pretty Woman**, BBC1, 11.25pm

A millionaire hires a prostitute while on a business trip. Realising she may be useful in helping him keep up a successful appearance, he pays her to accompany him for a week as he associates with the rich and powerful – but falls in love despite their many differences. Romantic comedy, starring Richard Gere and Julia Roberts. (1990)

## Pick of the Week

### Stars shine bright in a night of celebration

**S**ome things have become inevitable at annual British awards bashes in recent years. Ant and Dec will pick up Best Entertainment Presenter at the National TV Awards; Corrie's Michelle Keegan takes home Sexiest Female at the British Soap Awards, and James Corden will host the Brits.

There are still a couple of months until Michelle's next award is announced, but there's no surprise to find James back on presenting duties for Brit Awards 2013.

This week he does his best 'tailor'-made suit, and makes a 'swift' commute in 'one direction' to London's 02 arena. Chances are he'll get there 'just in time', and if the 'muse' inspires him, will deliver a few witty one-liners to camera. And those are just a few tenuous clues to who'll be performing here.

But enough of such Alan Partridge-style seques (though they are arguably no worse than Sam Fox and Mick Fleetwood's script from the 1989 Brits debacle). What you really want to know is who's in the running for the latest star-studded gong show.

Well, like 2012's opening and closing Olympics ceremonies, this year's awards could turn into 'The Brits Sande Show' if one of the most amiable singer-songwriters in the business scoops an armful of gongs. Aside from performing, she's up for Best British Album of the Year, British Single, and British Female Solo Artist.

However, Emeli is facing stiff competition from the brilliantly eccentric Paloma Faith in the Album and Female Artist category.

Like Ms Sande, fellow Brit performers Muse also gave a blinding performance at London 2012. Will they win over the voters in the British Live Act category, or will Brits' other acts, Mumford & Sons, pip them, and fellow nominees The Rolling Stones, Coldplay and The Vaccines, to the post?

That remains to be seen, but there's a good chance Paul Epworth may go home with a gong as British Producer of the Year. His work on the Skyfall theme landed an Oscar nomination, and with the only other runners in that category being Damon Albarn and Jake Gosling, the one-in-three odds aren't bad.

Adele's James Bond track is also in the running for Best British Single, along with Robbie Williams' Candy.

The Take That veteran will be belting out a tune at the O2, and if it's a well known track, will no doubt be asking the audience to fill in the blanks while he catches his breath.

X Factor winner James Arthur is also in with a chance of taking home a gong in that category thanks to his debut smash, Impossible.

Who wins what? Well there's only one way to find out as Mr Corden welcomes hundreds of celebs, record industry types, along with previously alluded to mega stars One Direction, Taylor Swift and Justin Timberlake.

With high street record shops almost permanently consigned to the 'Where Are They Now?' file, online retailers are expecting a spike in sales once the winner of the British Album of the Year Award is announced.

All are hoping An Awesome Wave washes away the competition, Mumford & Sons' Babel, Plan B's III Manors, Ms Sande's Our Version Of Events, and Paloma's Fall To Grace.



James Corden hosts the Brit Awards 2013, Wednesday, ITV, 8pm

### Best of the Rest

#### MONDAY

**Her Majesty's Prison** – Aylesbury, ITV, 9pm

Aylesbury Prison in Buckinghamshire houses some of Britain's most dangerous criminals, including murderers, rapists, gangsters and paedophiles. One in five are serving either life or indeterminate sentences to protect the public. But perhaps most worryingly of all, even the oldest inmates are still only 21. This eye-opening two-part documentary goes behind the scenes to discover how prison officers are trying to help the young men rebuild their lives. But it's not just rehabilitation that poses a problem – there are also outbreaks of violence and simmering gang rivalries to deal with. One jailbird claims he quite likes it when a fight breaks out as it makes the day go quicker, but unsurprisingly the staff take a very different view.

**Speidi: Scandal, Secrets & Surgery!** Channel 5, 10pm

Fans of MTV's The Hills will remember the Heidi Montag of old; down-to-earth, career-driven, and a loyal friend to fellow reality telly star Lauren Conrad. But all that quickly changed and seemed to coincide with Heidi's blossoming relationship with new boyfriend Spencer Pratt. These days, 'Speidi' are something of a brand, cashing in on their 'fame' wherever they can; so much so that it's argued they're the most loathed celebrity couple in the States. This one-off film features interviews with the Big Brother runners up, and contributions from those who have surrounded them, and reveals the truth behind their marriage, the bankruptcy and all that plastic surgery (Heidi had 10 surgeries in one day).

#### TUESDAY

**Live UEFA Champions League** ITV, 7.30pm

Europe's premier club competition continues tonight with this last-16 first-leg match between Arsenal and Bayern Munich at the Emirates Stadium. After finishing second in Group B, Arsene Wenger's men will enter this tie as underdogs against the German giants, who topped the Group F table by virtue of their superior head-to-head record against Valencia. Having performed inconsistently away from home so far in this season's competition the Gunners will look to gain an advantage ahead of the return leg next month.

**The Fried Chicken Shop: Life in a Day** Channel 4, 4pm

Are you a leg or a breast person? It's perhaps not the kind of question you could get away with in too many social situations – unless you happen to be in a shop that sells chicken-related products. According to this documentary, Brits have gone bonkers for something that was once regarded as part of the staple diet of America's southern states – fried chicken. Here we get to see what life is like both behind and in front of the counter at a fast food outlet selling the stuff in Clapham, south London. Expect to see a real cross section of British life walk through the shop doors in a one-off programme that promises to be finger-lickin' good.

#### WEDNESDAY

**NCIS**

Channel 5, 9pm

While a new crew canvass opinion on the huge amount of money about to be spent on warships, one man is so spooked by a camera being pointed in his face, he is seriously injured after running into the path of an oncoming van. The plot thickens when local cop Danny Sportelli (Jack Conley), who was called to the scene, walks into NCIS HQ to tell Gibbs (Mark Harmon) he's found a professional hitman nicknamed The Cooler. He was responsible for at least six contract killings and had been living in suburbia under the name Paul Ariss. What is it about an old Cary Grant film that gives McGee (Sean Murray) a clue to cracking the case?

#### THURSDAY

**Jack Taylor: The Guards**

Channel 5, 9pm

As classic detective drama Chinatown is one of his favourite films, Game of Thrones' Iain Glen jumped at the chance of playing an Irish private eye in the first of three mysteries. And there's no shortage of genre ingredients in the first of three mysteries for the eponymous crime-buster.

Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Esther Rantzen, Friday, ITV, 9pm

A beautiful protagonist? That'll be Anne Henderson (Tara Breathnach). The case? She wants Jack to find her missing daughter. Somebody has already killed four girls, and when Taylor's paratrooper friend Sutton (Ralph Brown) washes up in Galway, too, our hero is lured to the dark side to crack the case before anyone else meets a sticky end.

#### FRIDAY

Room 101

BBC1, 8.30pm

Jon Richardson is a man with a meticulous attention to detail, so he was spoilt for choice when asked if he'd like to take part in this show. One of the single comedian's many bugbears is friends who are settling down, and the fact that he's never going to see them again unless their marriage breaks up. Actress and fellow guest Sheila Hancock admits she's not a huge fan of 21st-century fireworks. During the last of the series, we also see what winds up Strictly Come Dancing judge Craig Revel Horwood.

#### Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Esther Rantzen

These days, Esther Rantzen may not be as star or famous as Cheryl Cole, Gordon Brown or Elton John, but she's a fascinating woman – so she should make a great guest for Piers as his chat show returns. Here she discusses her rise to fame, from lowly clerk in the BBC programming department to household name thanks to a 21-year stint as presenter of That's Life! However, her lasting legacy may turn out to be Childline, the first national helpline for children in danger or distress.

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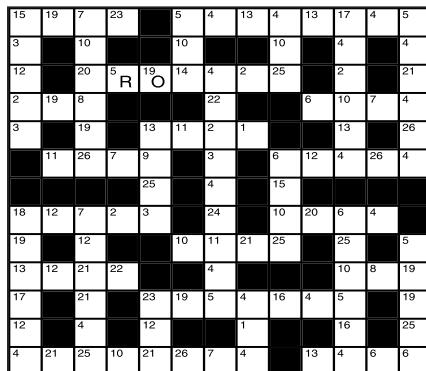
What's On!

## Brain Gym

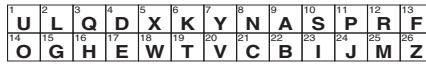
No.208

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



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## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

## Cryptic Clues:

## Across

- Neat configuration of a vessel (4-5)
- See 26 Across
- What the listener does in genuine practice (5)
- This sort of food comes in instalments, we hear (6)
- A way of raising revenue for an island (5)
- Join a military detachment near the East (5)
- Likely to be shaken up in the game (4)
- Go through the exercise (5)
- Essential, initially, for everyone accepting radio signals (4)
- It's awkward to put the ink-holder back in it (5)
- In the end, the deciding of a point in court (5)
- If you want to stay for good, you'll have to pay the bill! (6)
- Beautiful flowers from Gail Mason? (9)
- 26 Across and 11
- A singular occasion associated with many relations (4-4-4)
- It's vital as steel in modified form (9)

## Quick Clues:

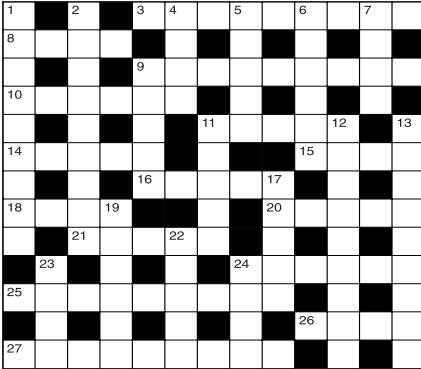
- Covet (9)
- Catch sight of (4)
- Extended (9)
- Wool coat (6)
- Series (5)
- Wireless (5)
- Rim (4)
- Performs (5)
- DLH heavy sound (4)
- Unspoken (5)
- Perch (5)
- Fix (6)
- Terrible (9)
- Shortly (4)
- Austerity (9)

## Down

- Causes of sudden deflation (9)
- They make up the royal train (9)
- Footpad? (4)
- What the dress that makes some of the people attractive (6)
- He announces the girl and the lad in some confusion (6)
- A plot to remove the tail from the aircraft (4)
- What the castigator and is given some value (5)
- See 26 Across
- Rock revealing strange items in solitary surroundings (9)
- Was scared about the description of words (9)
- False statements about the biographies (5)
- In a successful one the happy medium may be found (6)
- Virginia allowed a servant (5)
- Elevated position where the District Attorney is (4)
- Fairly maintain tension with a group of stories (4)

## Down

- Pierce (9)
- Pomp (9)
- Ceremony (4)
- Very poor (5)
- Preserve in brine (6)
- Spool (4)
- Exclusive story (5)
- Marine map (5)
- Training (9)
- Apposite (9)
- Concise (5)
- Evasive person (6)
- Lustrous silk fabric (5)
- Worry (4)
- Ado (4)



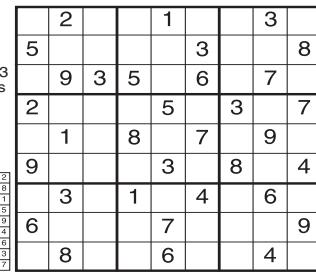
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:

CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Partisan; 8 Rout; 9 Striking; 11 Disappointed; 13 Spruce; 14 Murder; 17 Chess-players; 20 Consider; 21 Club; 22 Resisted; 23 Draw; Down: 1 Paradise; 2 Cruiser; 4 Action; 5 Triangular; 6 Spine; 7 Nigh; 10 Space-suits; 12 Crossbow; 15 Dweller; 16 Sphere; 18 Hands; 19 Scar. QUICK - Across: 1 Aids; 3 Disperse; 8 Type; 9 Starting; 11 Instructions; 13 Entity; 14 Rubber; 17 Perspiration; 20 Adroitness; 21 Itch; 22 Delights; 23 Less; Down: 1 Attained; 2 Deposit; 4 Inact; 5 Particular; 6 Reign; 7 Edge; 10 Protesting; 12 Trenches; 15 Brittle; 16 Billed; 18 Enrol; 19 Raid.

## Sudoku

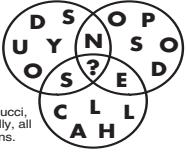
Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS &gt;



## Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:  
The letter represented by the question mark is N. Iannucci, Milligan, Connolly, all British comedians.

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CRYPTIC CROSSWORD  
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## Property Auction

**Cottons**  
CHARTERED SURVEYORS

68 PITCAIRN ROAD,  
SMETHWICK19 HEREWARD RISE,  
HALESOWEN

## FORTHCOMING AUCTION

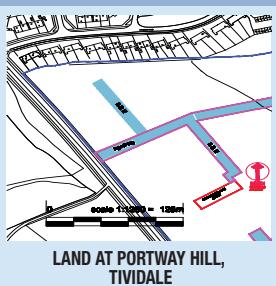
Tuesday 19th February 2013

To be held at... Aston Villa Football Club from 11.00am

## 60 Lots to include:

1 12 CARDINGTON AVENUE, GREAT BARR, BIRMINGHAM B42 2PA  
2 4 WATSTONE TERRACE, HANDSWORTH, BIRMINGHAM B21 9ME  
3 11 LONDON STREET, DUDLEY, WEST MIDLANDS DY2 8NG  
4 60 WESTBURY ROAD, WEDNESBURY, WEST MIDLANDS WS10 9RT  
5 27 THOMPSON ROAD, OLDESDALE, WEST MIDLANDS B65 8QE  
6 105 KENYON STREET, BIRMINGHAM B15 2PS  
7 94 WELLHEAD LANE, FERRY BARR, BIRMINGHAM B42 2ST  
8 115 JAMES TURNER STREET, BIRMINGHAM B18 2ST  
9 FLAT 40, TRAFALGAR COURT, TINDALE, OLDBURY, WEST MIDLANDS B69 2JD  
10 80 FAIRFIELD ROAD, PENN, WORCESTERSHIRE WR10 0PT  
11 42 HEDGESIDE, WORCESTERSHIRE, WR10 0PT  
12 4 HATFIELD ROAD, LOZELS, BIRMINGHAM B19 1JR  
13 LAND OFF KENNEDY CLOSE, SANDWELL, WEST MIDLANDS - REF SLA 4  
14 THE MALTINS AND MALTINS COURT, ANDERSON ROAD,  
SANDWELL, B70 4EE  
15 97-117 STOURBRIDGE ROAD, HALESOWEN, WEST MIDLANDS B63 3UE  
16 41 COLLEGE ROAD, MOSLEY, BIRMINGHAM B13 9LB  
17 FLAT 5, 31 OXFORD ROAD, MOSLEY, BIRMINGHAM B13 9EH  
18 27 BROADFIELD STREET, WALSH, W11 1PN  
19 18 BRIMLEY STREET, WILBERFORD, NOTTINGHAM NG10 1AN  
20 101 WILBERFORD ROAD, NOTTINGHAM NG10 1AN  
21 11A TRINITY AVENUE, HILLMAN ROAD, SPARKILL, BIRMINGHAM B11 4DD  
22 17 CANON STREET, LEICESTER LEA 6AA  
23 16 HIGH STREET, BOSTOCK, LANCASHIRE L67 6JP  
24 63 HEDGESIDE, WORCESTERSHIRE, WR10 0PT  
25 10 HEREWARD RISE, HALESOWEN, WEST MIDLANDS B66 8AN  
26 2 REASIDE CRESCENT, BIRMINGHAM B14 4QN  
27 68 PITCAIRN ROAD, SMETHWICK, WEST MIDLANDS B67 5ME  
28 65 PEAK HOUSE ROAD, GREAT BARR, BIRMINGHAM B43 7RY  
29 115 PARKFIELD ROAD, OLDBURY B66 8BB  
30 171 HEDGESIDE, WORCESTERSHIRE, WR10 0PT  
31 12 AND 15 REED STREET, MULCEY, LEICESTERSHIRE LE10 0DZ  
32 69 BRIMMINGHAM ROAD, GREAT BARR, BIRMINGHAM B43 6XN

Freehold Land ..... £1,000 - PLUS  
Freehold Vacant Residential ..... £69,000 - £72,000  
Freehold Vacant Residential ..... £50,000 - £57,000  
Freehold Vacant Residential ..... £50,000 - £57,000  
Freehold Vacant Residential ..... £45,000 - £52,000  
Freehold Vacant Residential ..... £35,000 - £39,000  
Freehold Vacant Residential ..... £50,000 - £55,000  
Leasehold Residential Investment ..... £220,000 - £250,000  
Freehold Vacant Residential ..... £100,000 - £108,000  
Freehold Commercial Investment ..... £100,000 - £108,000  
Freehold Vacant Residential ..... £95,000 - £105,000  
Freehold Vacant Residential ..... £120,000 - £125,000  
Freehold Vacant Residential ..... £270,000 - £285,000  
Freehold Vacant Residential ..... £65,000 - £69,000  
Freehold Vacant Commercial ..... £45,000 - £53,000  
Freehold Building Plot ..... £22,000 - £29,000  
Freehold Vacant Commercial ..... £230,000 - £250,000  
Freehold Vacant Residential ..... £35,000 - £39,000  
Freehold Vacant Commercial ..... £69,000 - £100,000  
Freehold Vacant Residential ..... £105,000 - £110,000  
Freehold Vacant Residential ..... £75,000 - £80,000  
Freehold Vacant Residential ..... £17,000 - £19,000  
Freehold Vacant Residential ..... £4,000 - £8,000  
Freehold Land ..... £2,000 - PLUS  
Freehold Vacant Residential ..... £220,000 - £225,000  
Freehold Vacant Residential ..... £75,000 - £80,000  
Freehold Vacant Residential ..... £100,000 - £110,000  
Freehold Vacant Residential ..... £200,000 - £230,000  
Freehold Vacant Residential ..... £27,000 - £33,000  
Freehold Vacant Residential ..... £48,000 - £53,000  
Freehold Ground Rent ..... £30,000 - £37,000  
Freehold Ground Rents ..... £10,000 - £12,000  
Leasehold Vacant Residential ..... £60,000 - £65,000  
Freehold Residential Investment ..... £95,000 - £99,000  
Freehold Vacant Residential ..... £50,000 - £57,000  
Leasehold Vacant Residential ..... £40,000 - £47,000  
Freehold Vacant Residential ..... £65,000 - £69,000  
Freehold Vacant Residential ..... £10,000 - £12,000  
Freehold Vacant Residential ..... £120,000 - £130,000  
Freehold Vacant Residential ..... £130,000 - £140,000

FLAT 10, 1 ENDWOOD COURT,  
HANDSWORTH WOOD74 ARDEN ROAD,  
SMETHWICKLAND OFF KENNEDY CLOSE,  
SANDWELLLAND AT PORTWAY HILL,  
TIVIDALE22 SIR RICHARDS DRIVE,  
HARBORNE138 SYCAMORE ROAD,  
SMETHWICK97-117 STOURBRIDGE ROAD,  
HALESOWEN

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HALESOWEN, ST KENELMS AVENUE

A rare opportunity to rent a spacious detached bungalow in this very sought after location. Large lounge/dining area, conservatory, rear oak quality fitted kitchen with appliances, 2 double bedrooms, large bathroom with separate shower. A further double bedroom with shower room on the 1st floor. Double garage, large rear garden. Parking for several cars. Available in February. EPC = E

£795 PCM



HALESOWEN, NEWTON COURT

A recently converted three-bedroom penthouse apartment finished to an extremely high standard centrally located with commuter links to Halesowen and Birmingham. Features 2 double bedrooms, both with fitted wardrobes, 2 bathrooms, one single bedroom, secondary glazing throughout. Allocated parking. Viewings recommended. EPC = C

£750 PCM



HALESOWEN, MORAY CLOSE

A modern three-bedroom semi-detached house comprising Large Lounge/Dining Area, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double and One Large Single Bedroom. Bathroom with Separate Shower. Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Garage and Driveway. Popular Location, Close to Rail/Bus Links and Schools.

£675 PCM



QUINTON, GRAYSWOOD PARK ROAD

Characterful home with good sized reception rooms. An unfurnished semi-detached house in this very popular residential area. Comprising 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms and a study room, bathroom with shower, separate w.c., gas central heating, front & rear gardens, garage & driveway parking. Available in February. EPC = D

£650 PCM



OLDBURY, ASHWOOD CLOSE

A superb 4-bedroom 3-storey modern home perfect for families. Ground floor level has lounge with patio doors to garden, fitted kitchen with gas hob/electric oven and w.c. On the first floor there are 2 double bedrooms and guest bathroom with hair wash facility. 1 further master double bedroom with en-suite and 1 large single bedroom to be found on the 2nd floor. Driveway parking and a garage. Available immediately. EPC = B

£625 PCM



HALESOWEN, WROXLEY HOUSE

Luxury living in Hayley Green. This superb luxury ground floor apartment offers spacious accommodation including open plan lounge/kitchen and dining area, en-suite, 2 double bedrooms, master en-suite, further well appointed bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking. EPC = B

£625 PCM



MERRY HILL, MADISON AVENUE

Flexible accommodation. A spacious unfurnished modern terraced house, within walking distance of Merry Hill shopping centre, featuring kitchen, downstairs WC, dining room/study, lounge, bathroom, 3 bedrooms, master ensuite shower room, allocated parking space. EPC = C

£595 PCM



TIPTON, PEARTREE AVENUE

Cul-de-sac location. This deceptively large 3-bedroom terraced house is undergoing a re-decoration and re-carpeting. It features a spacious lounge, large modern fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, nice sized garden, driveway parking and in a quiet cul-de-sac location. EPC = C

£550 PCM



HALESOWEN, HAGLEY STREET

Fantastic refurbishment over 2 floors. A fully refurbished modern duplex apartment above an electrical shop in the very centre of Halesowen, featuring a large open plan living area with modern fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom with shower. By agreement £40 fixed electric charge. EPC = C

£550 PCM



HALESOWEN, THE INFIELDS

Stunning and modern on a well sought after new estate. This top floor apartment features 2 bedrooms, master with fitted wardrobes, large lounge with real dark wood flooring, superb high spec kitchen with built in fridge/freezer & washer/dryer, bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, allocated parking. Available immediately. Not to be missed. EPC = C

£550 PCM



HALESOWEN, BLOOMFIELD STREET NORTH

Extremely well presented and surprisingly large end terrace with off road parking. Within walking distance to Halesowen, local bus routes and shops, comprises 2 bedrooms, nice lounge, attractive fitted dining/kitchen with white goods including washing machine, utility room, house bathroom with shower, a glorious court yard garden and gated driveway. EPC = D

£525 PCM



STOURBRIDGE, PROSPECT GARDENS

Desirable Oldswinford location. Close to Stourbridge Town Centre the newly redecorated, unfurnished mid terraced house comprises 2 bedrooms, fitted kitchen, pleasant lounge, gas central heating, double glazing, rear garden with patio, small rear garden, parking space to front. EPC = C

£525 PCM



HALESOWEN, HAMMERSLEY CLOSE

Set in a quiet well sought after cul-de-sac. This furnished to suit modern mid terraced house features 1 double bedroom and 1 good sized single bedroom, fitted kitchen with appliances, spacious lounge, bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, driveway for 2 cars, rear garden. EPC = C

£500 PCM



STOURBRIDGE, CHAPEL STREET

A three bedroom link detached house within walking distance to Tyre shops, buses and train station, comprising of: lounge, kitchen, 3 bedrooms and bathroom, electric heating, double glazing, rear garden with patio, blocked paved driveway for two cars. Available immediately. EPC = F

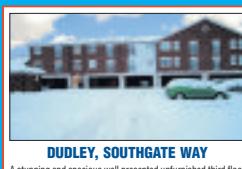
£495 PCM



BRIERLEY HILL, FOXDALE DRIVE

Freshly redecorated and within 3 minutes drive of Brierley Hill town centre and a few minutes more from Merry Hill shopping centre. This unfurnished terraced house comprises 1 double bedroom and 1 single bedroom, 1 with fitted wardrobes, house bathroom with shower, nice sized lounge, fitted kitchen, allocated parking, small front garden. EPC = C

£450 PCM



DUDLEY, SOUTHGATE WAY

A stunning and spacious well presented unfurnished third floor apartment featuring 2 double bedrooms, electric storage heating, double glazing, open plan living room with fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, allocated parking space. Viewing highly recommended. Available immediately. EPC = B

£450 PCM



HALESOWEN, MANOR LANE

A spacious furnished first floor flat featuring gas central heating, living room, living room with sofa, large fitted kitchen with white goods, double bedroom with bed and wardrobes, large shower room, secure parking at rear. Available immediately. EPC = C

£420 PCM



ROWLEY REGIS, WINCHESTER CLOSE

A very well presented, unfurnished first floor apartment, close to the M5 J2, comprises 2 bedrooms, fitted kitchen, lounge, double glazing, bathroom with shower, parking space and parking area for visitors, communal gardens. EPC rating = D

£395 PCM



HALESOWEN, NETHEREND LANE

Well presented throughout. This unfurnished ground floor apartment is within walking distance to Cradley Heath train station, comprises modern fitted kitchen, spacious lounge, bathroom with shower, 1 bedroom with built in wardrobes, en block garage. EPC rating = E

£380 PCM



HALESOWEN, APPERLEY WAY

Quaint location. An opportunity to acquire a spacious first floor apartment. Situated to the rear, on the popular Homer Hill estate, comprises 1 double bedroom with fitted wardrobes, lounge with dining table and chairs, table/office, fitted kitchen with white goods, modern house bathroom with shower, rear garden, parking space. EPC = F

£375 PCM



NETHERTON, ST GEORGES ROAD

Spacious and quiet. This lovely unfurnished first floor apartment features electric storage heating, living room, fitted kitchen with a fridge freezer, 1 double bedroom with fitted wardrobes, house bathroom with shower, rear garden, parking space. EPC = D

£375 PCM

# Home of Property

Your top property guide for Dudley, Halesowen, Sedgley, Kidderminster and Stourbridge



Prices range from £135,000 to £264,950



Contemporary kitchens at Electric Avenue, Kingswinford

## Electric Avenue sure to spark off interest

A DUDLEY housing development which is already proving a big turn on for home buyers is set to attract even more interest following the opening of its new show home.

Award-winning residential property developer Selbourne Homes has seen huge interest in its latest scheme, Electric Avenue, which overlooks King George VI Park and lake in Kingswinford.

Even though only four of the 11 contemporary homes on the High Street site have been completed so far, one has already been sold and three others have been reserved.

And with the four-bedroom show home opening its doors, Selbourne Homes' managing director Gavin Warr

expects the other properties to be snapped up quickly.

"We always thought Electric Avenue would be popular and we certainly haven't been disappointed," said Mr Warr.

The site was designed to appeal to a mix of home owners ranging from first-time buyers and families to those looking to downsize.

### Flexibility

"Each property has its own garden and the larger homes come with a spacious single or double garage, giving people added flexibility in terms of their overall living space."

Providing a mix of two, three and four-bedroomed homes, Electric Avenue is situated next to the village conservation area, within easy walking distance of Kingswinford town centre.

With their mellowed brick exteriors and traditional roof tiles, the properties have been designed to blend in with the character of the High Street. Inside, the modern interiors provide comfortable, practical living spaces with streamlined kitchens and sleek bathrooms which come with a choice of contemporary fixtures and fittings.

Prices range from £135,000 for a two-bedroom terrace with parking to £264,950 for a four-bedroom detached home which comes with a detached double garage.

The show home is open on Saturdays and Sundays from 11am to 4pm and at other times by appointment. Appointments can be made by calling Selbourne Homes on 01562 888161 or by calling agents, The Lee, Shaw Partnership, on 01384 287622. Brochures at www.selbournehomes.com.

## Boom in sales seen at flagship homes project

MORE than half of the homes in the second phase of a flagship Dudley housing scheme have been snapped up, as Keepmoat prepares to open a new view home at its latest development.

The award-winning house-builder has sold out on phase one at its Friars Gate development, and is preparing to open a new Hayfield-style 'view' home on phase 2 this Saturday in addition to the existing show home on the site.

Friars Gate will see a total of 314 two- and three-bedroom homes built as part of the transformation of the former North Priory estate over the next four years – creating a whole new community.

Local house hunters will be able to view the three-bedroomed Hayfield view home, which will showcase the size of the property and its newly landscaped garden.

### Thriving

Work on the Friars Gate project began in January 2011, reservations are being taken for phase three of the project, which is not due to be released until April.

Eamonn McInerney, group sales and marketing director at Keepmoat, said: "This is a major development for what is set to be a brand new community and the popularity of the home we've seen shows that this will be a thriving area in the heart of Dudley."

Prices for homes in phase two of the scheme start from £89,995 for a two-bedroom home and £119,995 for a three-bedroom property, rising to



A Hayfield style house at the Friars Gate development in Dudley

£124,995 for a two-and-a-half storey, three-bedroom home.

A number of Government-backed schemes are available at the development to support first time buyers looking to take their first step on the

property ladder. The show home and sales office at Priory Road, Dudley DY1 1HJ is open seven-days-a-week from 10am to 5pm.

For more information call 01384 456320 or visit www.Keepmoat.com

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- THREE BEDROOMS • TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- FITTED KITCHEN • REFURBISHED



**£1,350 PCM**

- FIVE BEDROOMS • TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- KITCHEN DINER • CONSERVATORY
- EN-SUITE • OFF ROAD PARKING



**£89,950**

- TWO BEDROOMS • END TERRACE
- LOUNGE • FITTED KITCHEN
- FRONT DRIVEWAY • NO CHAIN



**£109,950**

- THREE BEDROOM • LOUNGE
- FITTED KITCHEN • FRONT DRIVEWAY
- NO CHAIN



**£174,950**

- FIVE BEDROOMS • TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- FITTED KITCHEN • TWO BATHROOMS
- FRONT DRIVEWAY • GARAGE



**£475 pcm**

- COMMERCIAL OFFICES
- GROUND FLOOR ENTRANCE
- CAR PARK AT REAR



**£525 PCM**

- TWO BEDROOMS • LOUNGE
- FITTED KITCHEN/DINER • UTILITY ROOM

**MORE PROPERTIES URGENTLY REQUIRED**

**NO SALE NO FEE  
NO LET NO FEE**



**£500 PCM**

- TWO BEDROOMS • TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- FITTED KITCHEN • REFURBISHED



**£695 PCM**

- THREE BEDROOMS • LOUNGE
- FITTED KITCHEN • CONSERVATORY
- OFF ROAD PARKING



**£84,950**

- TWO BEDROOMS • LOUNGE
- FITTED KITCHEN • ALLOCATED PARKING



**£99,950**

- TWO BEDROOM • LOUNGE
- FITTED KITCHEN • FRONT DRIVEWAY



**£160,000**

- FOUR BEDROOMS • LOUNGE/DINER
- FITTED KITCHEN • UTILITY ROOM
- FRONT DRIVEWAY



**£300,000**

- EIGHT BEDROOMS • THREE RECEPTION ROOMS
- FITTED KITCHEN • BALCONY
- WET ROOM • BATHROOM
- OFF ROAD PARKING

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**Dwellings Lane**  
\* Semi detached house  
\* in need of general modernisation  
\* two reception rooms  
\* separate wc \* utility  
\* three bedrooms  
\* garage \* good sized rear garden  
\* EPC = F

Offers in the region of £139,950



**Plot 1 Allbut Street**  
\* Brand New semi detached  
\* 3 bedrooms  
\* Lounge  
\* Cloakroom  
\* Kitchen/dining room  
\* Enclosed garden  
\* Off road parking EPC=B

£117,500



**Ambell Close**  
\* Ideal first time purchase  
\* mid terraced house  
\* through lounge  
\* three bedrooms  
\* landscaped rear garden  
\* off road parking  
\* gas boiler serving radiators  
\* EPC = C

£110,000



**Manor Lane**

\* Exceptional semi detached house  
\* finished to a high specification  
\* extended kitchen & utility room  
\* separate lounge and dining room  
\* cloakroom \* three bedrooms  
\* garage with storage area  
\* extensive rear garden \* EPC = D

Offers in the region of £284,950



**Edenhall Road**

\* Spacious semi detached house  
\* separate lounge and dining room  
\* conservatory  
\* good sized bedrooms  
\* garage  
\* pleasant rear garden

\* EPC = E

Offers in the region of £209,950



**Huntingtree Road**

\* Semi detached house  
\* extended L shaped kitchen/dining room \* through living room  
\* three bedrooms  
\* side garage and driveway  
\* large rear garden with patio area.  
\* EPC = D

Offers in the region of £199,950



**Southwick Road**

\* Detached 3 bedroom house  
\* Requiring modernisation and improvement  
\* Extensive gardens  
\* Lounge and dining room  
\* Potential for extension (subject to planning & Building Regulation)  
\* Vacant possession \* EPC = G

Offers in the region of £175,000



**Barston Road**

\* Semi detached house  
\* good sized rear garden  
\* through lounge  
\* three bedrooms  
\* no upward chain  
\* EPC RATING = D

Offers in the region of £104,950

Offers in excess of £80,000



**44 Margaret Street**

\* End terraced house  
\* 2 double bedrooms  
\* Fitted kitchen  
\* Utility  
\* Gas boiler/radiator heating system  
\* UPVC double glazing  
\* EPC = D

Monthly rent of £475



**29 Old Port Close**

\* Refurbished second floor flat\* One bedroom with wardrobe\* Open plan lounge with stylish kitchen\* Kitchen having most appliances\* New floor coverings and blinds\* Allocated parking\* Electric heaters\* EPC = D \* View now!

Monthly rent of £385



**Fiat 8 Chartwell Grange 441 Halesowen Road**  
\* First floor flat \* One bedroom  
\* Fitted kitchen  
\* Double glazed windows  
\* N/S heating  
\* Communal car parking  
\* Convenient location  
\* Available Now! EPC = E

Monthly rent of £375

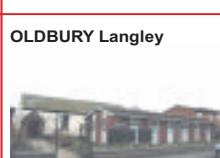


**1 Horner Way**  
Former night club situated in prominent town centre position suitable for a variety of uses (subject to planning consent). EPC=D

Offers in the region of £210,000



**Units 11, 12 & 13/14 Paganel Industrial Estate** Unit 11 epc = e, unit 12 epc = e, unit 13 epc = g, unit 14 epc = g \* 3 adjoining units comprising one block \* capable of being made into single unit \* available separately (request details)  
\* 99 year lease with low ground rent.  
\* small estate with good security system  
£150,000 plus VAT



**Edward Street**  
An opportunity to acquire a former Church Hall/Meeting Room and former church building linked together to provide an ideal complex planned on the ground floor for a variety of uses subject to planning approval. EPC(Hall)=D

Offers in the region of £150,000



**Former Salvation Army Building Park Street**  
\* Suitable for a range of uses subject to planning  
\* Visible position nr town centre  
\* Directly opp market carpark and Lidl \* Usable Floor Area: 262 sqm (2827 sqft) \* Junction 2 (M5) 1.5 miles  
Offers in the region of £125,000



**96 High Street**  
EPC = F  
\* deep shop  
\* high street location  
\* close to cradley heath markets  
\* first floor ancillary accommodation  
\* rear loading/communal parking  
\* vacant possession  
Annual rent Of £7,500



**Suite 1 Mercer House 780A Hagley Road West**  
EPC = G  
Well presented  
First floor single office  
Air conditioning/heater  
Communal kitchen and toilets  
Set service charge  
Annual rent Of £1,900

# DIXONS

Estate Agents

Doing More...

## Hamilton Avenue, Halesowen



SOLD

EPC Awaited



OIRO £290,000

A modern extended detached house comprising lounge, kitchen/breakfast room, conservatory and five bedrooms.

## King Charles Road



EPC E



£240,000

An extended four bedroom semi-detached house with accommodation comprising kitchen, two reception rooms and an en-suite.

## St. James Avenue



EPC C

£90,000

Modern semi-detached property with accommodation comprising lounge, two bedrooms, and a garage.

## The Broadway, Dudley



EPC Awaited

Offers Over £190,000

Detached three bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, modern kitchen, downstairs shower room, family bathroom and rear garden.

## Goodrich Mews, Dudley



NEW PRICE

EPC B

Offers Over £120,000

Link detached three bedroom property briefly comprising kitchen, lounge, conservatory, family bathroom, rear garden and garage.

## Penrice Drive, Tividale



NEW

Offers Over £110,000

Semi-detached three bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, kitchen/diner, bathroom, front and rear gardens, driveway and garage.

## Highfield Road, Rowley Regis



NEW

EPC Awaited



Offers Over £170,000

Traditional semi-detached property comprising two reception rooms, kitchen/diner, three bedrooms, bathroom, rear garden and driveway.

## MacDonald Close, Tividale



EPC C

Offers Over £150,000

End terrace three storey, three bedroom property comprising lounge/diner, kitchen and master bedroom with en-suite.

## New Road, Dudley



New Price

EPC D

Offers Over £110,000

Semi-detached three bedroom property comprising two reception rooms, WC, kitchen, bathroom, rear garden, garage and driveway.

## Norman Street, Dudley



NEW

EPC C

Offers Over £130,000

Detached four bedroom property comprising wet room, lounge, dining room, kitchen, bathroom, front and rear gardens, driveway and garage.

## Deepdale Lane, Dudley



NEW

EPC Awaited

Offers Over £100,000

Semi-detached two bedroom property comprising lounge, kitchen, WC, bathroom, front and rear gardens. Must be viewed to fully appreciate.

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## Motoring

# Special MG6 is getting ready for big accident mercy dash

A SPECIALLY equipped MG6 GT is on front line life-saving duties answering emergency calls.

MG's Sales Centre is helping FastAid volunteers in the West Midlands to respond to life-threatening incidents. FastAid is a group of highly trained Community First Responders who support West Midlands Ambulance Service by attending 999 calls in their area.

The MG6 GT has a distinctive diamond grille livery so that it can be clearly seen, even at night, travelling to the scene of an accident.

Inside the car is fitted with an ambulance service radio and carries a vital automated external defibrillator which is critical to saving patients who have suffered a cardiac arrest.

### Specialist

Bulky equipment needed by the Community First Responders is carried in the huge boot of the MG6 GT fastback. Richard Jay, vice chairman of FastAid, said: "The cargo space in the MG6 is enormous and allows us to carry all of our specialist equipment with ease."

Ashley Almquest, a FastAid volunteer, highlighted another standard feature of the MG6 GT SE which had proved extremely valuable to answering emergency calls – the built-in satellite navigation system.

He said: "The screen is so clear, the maps are really good and it's easy to use.

"It can save us vital minutes when we are responding to an urgent call when someone's life could depend on us getting to the scene quickly."

The FastAid MG6 will mainly operate in the greater Birmingham and Solihull areas of the West Midlands where the charity was set up eight years ago. It costs up to £2,000

Simon Bennett, left, hands over the keys to Ashley Almquest

to train and equip each FastAid responder. Andy Jeynes, the West Midlands Ambulance Service Community Response Manager, said: "We are extremely grateful to the MG Sales Centre for supplying the MG6. It's already proved its worth on several call outs when the speed of response, and being able to arrive on scene with the right kit, is crucial."

"Without the support of local companies and organisations, such as the MG Sales Centre, we wouldn't be able to keep doing what we do in our local communities."

Simon Bennett, a sales executive at the MG Sales Centre in Lowhill Lane, Longbridge, said: "We're very proud that our local community first responders are saving lives in one of our cars."

It's about giving something back to the community we live in and we hope that our support helps FastAid to continue the excellent work it does."

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- 17 inch alloy wheels
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- Cruise control/trip computer/air con

#### FINANCE EXAMPLE

Cash price of vehicle	£9,695.00
Deposit	£1,000.00
Amount of credit	£8,693.00
Interest	£1,522.83
Total charge for credit	£1,522.83
Representative	<b>7.7% APR</b>
36 monthly payments of	£159.98
1 final payment of	£4,456.55
The guaranteed future value is	£4,456.55
Total amount payable	£11,217.83
Duration of the agreement	37 months

### CORSA SE 1.4 16v 5dr 12-12

New List Price £15,925 **SAVE £6930** from £8995

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- Heated seats/steering wheel
- 16 inch alloy wheels
- Cruise control/trip computer/air con
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Amount of credit	£7,995.00
Interest	£1,391.76
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Representative	<b>7.7% APR</b>
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## Argument 1

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Deposit contribution	£2000.00
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Arrangement fee†	£149.00
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\*Conditional sale. \*\*Korando S including VAT, delivery charge, Road Fund License & first Registration charge. Model featured is a Korando S at £17,495 including optional metallic paint at £500. Price is correct at time of going to print, but may be modified or changed at any time. Finance subject to status. Applicants must be age 18 or over. Guaranteed / indemnity may be required. T&Cs apply. GMAC Finance, PO Box 6666, Cardiff CF15 7Y1. Finance offer available until 30.04.13 on 2011 (MY). †Payable in addition to first monthly payment. ††Payable in addition to final monthly payment.

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Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (g/km). Chevrolet Spark Range: Urban 42.8 (6.6), Extra Urban 67.3 (4.2), Combined 55.4 (5.1) CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 119/g/km. Chevrolet Aveo Range: Urban 34.0 (8.3) – 67.2 (4.2), Extra Urban 55.3 (5.1) – 85.6 (3.3), Combined 44.8 (6.3) – 78.4 (3.6), CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 147 – 95g/km.

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## Crumpton grounds Falcons

### Halas Hawks West U10s 2 Forest Falcons East U10s 0

HAWS ground out a positive result against a resolute Forest Falcons side.

Man of the match Brodie Crumpton scored both goals in their 2-0 win, the first being an excellent header and the second a follow up after Harvey Brookes had hit the post.

### Hasbury Girls U15s 0

### Halas Hawks U15s 0

It was honours even as Hasbury and Halas Hawks cancelled each other out.

Hawks keeper Ciara Robinson-Morris impressed to ensure the game finished goalless.

### Halas Hawks East U9s 1

### West Hagley U9s 2

Halas Hawks East Under-9s East paid the price for a sluggish start to their clash with West Hagley.

Hawks found themselves trailing 2-0 inside 10 minutes and, although Brandon Hale reduced the deficit, Hawks couldn't find an equaliser.

### Trysull Tigers West u10s 3

### Halas Hawks East U10s 1

A sparkling second-half display from Tigers saw them claim the Division One points.

Trysull took the lead after the break through man of the match Benjamin Johnson.

Hawks East equalised within two minutes, but two great strikes in the last 10 minutes from Dane Bees sealed a deserved 3-1 victory for Trysull.

## Hockey

## Tigers find their bite

### Kings Heath Ladies 0

### Barford Tigers Ladies 6

BARFORD Tigers Ladies continued their outstanding start to their first season, which has seen them power to the summit of the Worcestershire Ladies League Division Three.

They roared to a 6-0 success as they maintained their 100 per cent record and moved eight points clear at the top of the table.

The scoring was opened after 10 minutes when Bianca Homer pounced on a cross from flying winger Stacey Nash.

A second followed shortly from Charn Gill with Sarah Skidmore and Roohi Faruque netting to make it 4-0 at half-time.

Hannah Yates and Skidmore rounded off the scoring after the break.

### ACTION HEART 5 'HEART RUN' ENTRY FORM

Sunday, February 24, 2013

Name.....  
Address.....  
Estimated finish time.....  
State whether runner or walker.....  
Date of birth.....  
Age on day.....  
Club (if any).....  
Telephone No. .... Sex (M/F).....  
Email address.....

I declare that I am medically fit to run and understand that I take part entirely at my own risk. I declare that I am an amateur as defined by the UKA. I agree to abide by the current laws and rules of competition of the UKA. I will be 15 or over on the day of the event.

Signed.....Fee paid.....  
(to be signed by parent/guardian if under 18)  
Date.....

## Final week of preparation

THE big day is almost here with the Action Heart five-mile run taking place on Sunday, February 24.

The event starts and finishes at Russells Hall Hospital (start time 9.30 am) and Action Heart is hoping to raise £12,000 to develop the service provided through its Cardiac Rehabilitation Programme at Russells Hall.

We have now reached the seventh and final week of the training programme for beginners and the schedule is shown below. Remember, proper warming up and cooling down is absolutely essential to prepare your body for prolonged exercise and should never be missed.

Some of you may find that increasing



the mileage has led to possible aches and pains.

If you do suffer from a running injury, no matter how slight, do not try to push it – take time out – listen to your body and do not try to 'run-off' those little niggles or strains. By taking an extra rest day you will be better prepared to carry on with the schedule.

There is still time to get your entry in for the race. You can fill in the entry form printed alongside or go to [www.actionheartrunning.com](http://www.actionheartrunning.com) and download an entry form or visit [www.runbritain.co.uk](http://www.runbritain.co.uk) and enter on line. Alternatively call 01384 292233 for an entry form.

There are no entries on the day of the event.

### Training: Week Five

Monday: Rest  
Tuesday: Three-mile jog  
Wednesday: Four-mile jog  
Thursday: Rest  
Friday: Two-mile jog  
Saturday: Rest  
Sunday: Action Heart five-mile run.

# Stars in stripes lift the doom and gloom

### Liverpool 0 Albion 2

#### Crisis? What crisis?

A second successive victory at Liverpool puts smiles back on Albion faces after the fortnight from hell for boss Steve Clarke.

The Baggies arrived at Anfield a club in turmoil and left a team reinvigorated by another stunning triumph against Liverpool.

If a trying two weeks left Clarke's side in chaos ahead of the trip to Merseyside, it appeared someone forgot to tell his players.

Or perhaps the mayhem simply brought them closer together.

Inspired by magnificent goalkeeper Ben Foster and aided by a marvellous return of their first-choice midfield trio, Albion soaked up the pressure before hitting Brendan Rodgers' side decisively on the break twice in the second half.

Gareth McAuley's header on 81 minutes and Romelu Lukaku's stoppage-time strike might have come a little out of nowhere after the home side had enjoyed the clearer chances.

But they gave the Baggies deserved reward for a fantastic rearguard action, encapsulated by a series of magical Foster saves including one from a dubiously-awarded penalty and another one-handed stunner from the same man, Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard.

It ensured a third straight victory for Albion against the Reds with six goals scored and none conceded.

After years of Liverpool dominance in the fixture, the Baggies are fast-becoming their bogey side.

After a troubling fortnight of player indisposition and unwanted headlines, a trip to Anfield – and another landmark victory – was the perfect tonic.

Albion started brightly but they suffered an early scare when Liam Ridgewell, restored to the team in place of the suspended Goran Popov, failed to control a high diagonal ball.



Game over – Romelu Lukaku steers home Albion's second goal to seal the win at Anfield



Lukaku sets off to celebrate his strike

The Baggies full-back presented possession to Luis Suarez, who sent a half-volley just wide.

There was a further let-off for Clarke's men on nine minutes when Foster spilled a left-foot shot from Glen Johnson into the path of Jonjo Shelvey, who found the net with a follow-up but had his celebrations cut short by an offside flag.

The Reds went close twice more, first when Daniel Agger headed over from a Stewart Downing corner and then when Downing's 35-yard piledriver proved too hot for Foster to handle, although the Albion No.1 claimed it at the second attempt.

The Reds were having the clearer chances but Albion were playing their part in game play out in a flat Anfield atmosphere.

And, as the first half drew to a close frustrations began to mount in the home camp, especially when they saw Steven Reid receive a huge slice of luck. The Baggies full-

back tried a left-footed clearance from a Shelvey cross, only to play the ball onto his standing foot and watch it loop up narrowly over the bar.

The Baggies made an encouraging start to the second half but they had to be resolute to keep the Reds at bay. First, two vital tackles on the edge of the area halted a weaving run towards goal by Downing.

And when the ball broke to Gerrard, Foster made a brave block low down at the Liverpool captain's feet.

Moments later Foster was his side's saviour again when he made a fine, instinctive save to keep out Jordan Henderson's flick.

The Hawthorns No.1 was soon back in the action when an impeccable piece of handling saw him claim a Fabio Borini shot.

And, moments later, a sprawling block from McAuley denied the increasingly fruitful Suarez an excellent shooting chance.

That set Baggies fans into raptures but they were in dreamland when Lukaku wrapped up victory, collecting a James Morrison pass and side-stepping Agger before rifling home to cap a textbook away display.

Foster's finest moment so far arrived with 19 minutes remaining when, while heading in the wrong direction, he flung out his right hand to keep out an effort from Gerrard.

The Baggies keeper put the icing on the cake four minutes later when he guessed right to keep out Gerrard's penalty after a poor decision by referee Jonathan Moss to penalise Jonas Olsson.

The Swedes came together with Suarez, who went to ground easily, but Foster's denied the Reds as he saved low to his left.

The Baggies' Northern Ireland connection combined with nine minutes remaining. McAuley steamed in unmarked to rocket home a header from countryman Chris Brunt's right-wing corner.

That set Baggies fans into raptures but they were in dreamland when Lukaku wrapped up victory, collecting a James Morrison pass and side-stepping Agger before rifling home to cap a textbook away display.

## Club set for new innings

COOMBS Wood Cricket Club have moved into a new home helping to secure their long-term future for generations to come.

The £1m development of the five-acre site includes a pavilion, meeting rooms, bar, kitchen and changing rooms.

Alongside the cricket pitch are practice nets and a bowling green – all built to Sport England standards – off Stewarts Road, on the Coombeswood Green Wedge, Halesowen.

The club had outgrown their former clubhouse in Coombs Road but were unable to invest to update facilities due to a short lease.

But now ownership of the new premises has been transferred to the club, meaning their long-term future in the area is safe.

Coombs Wood Sports and Social Club chairman Nick Jones said: "We are very pleased with our new facilities which are benefiting all our sports and social members. We have already attracted considerable interest from the new local residents and have received several membership applications."

## Hockey

## Youthful Hales hold the leaders

### Solihull 5

### Old Halesians 5 XI 2

OLD HALES' fifth team endured mixed results from their double header.

Andy Hewitt and Jim Gurmin grabbed what proved to be consolation efforts in Saturday's 5-2 reverse against Solihull.

**Rugby & East Warwickshire 1**

An extremely young Hales side dug deep to earn a point against top of the league Rugby.

Conor O'Grady, Matt Oakley and Ollie Hale all made their fifth team debuts, while Scott Reid played outfield for first time.

Hales only had 10 players, and found themselves behind after 90 seconds, but they hit back to level when Gurmin grabbed his eighth goal in six games.

**Other Results:** Harborne 1 OHHC Ladies 15-9, OHHC 2nd XI 3-12, Aldridge 8-11, Walsall 4-1, OHHC Ladies 2nd XI 0, OHHC 3rd XI 2, Wolverhampton 1, Badgers 7, Wolverhampton 1 OHHC Mixed XI 3 Cannock 8

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# SPORT

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## Hockey

**Forward partners strike up goal feast**

## Redditch 1 Old Halesoniens 1st XI 10

OLD Hales ensured there was no complacency as they brushed aside a team without a win all season despite a depleted squad due to work commitments, illness and injury.

To their credit Redditch began with a high press, putting pressure on Old Hales, who themselves failed to find any rhythm.

The goals soon started to flow, however. Tom Bulteel found himself with time and space down the right, and with a sharp turn and incisive run, he found his way deep into the Redditch 'D'.

Bulteel was about to release the ball to one of his strike partners, when he was fouled, and a penalty stroke was awarded. Bulteel took the net for a 1-0 lead.

This was the opening Hales were looking for and along came a second as the ball was played into Chris Hill and he pounced to double the advantage.

## Provider

Fortune came for the third, when the Redditch defender deflected the ball into his own net. Another penalty stroke was awarded for Hales' fourth, and Bulteel stepped up to grab his second goal in less than 20 minutes.

Bulteel turned provider for the fifth as he slipped the ball to Knight who managed to put his name on the score-sheet. Goals six and seven arrived before half-time thanks to the pairing of Hill and Bulteel.

Hales started slowly in the second half, but were soon awarded another stroke, which Hill put wide.

He soon redeemed himself, however, as another tearing run, ripped the Redditch defence apart and he grabbed Hales' eighth goal. Goal number nine came from Bulteel once more - his fifth of the game.

Redditch grabbed a consolation to make it 9-1, before the darkness set in following floodlight problems.

With the game looking like it would be abandoned, the umpires decided to play out the final two minutes. Bulteel had one more teasing run in him, where he found Hill and he directed the ball into the goal on his reverse side, for a hat trick.

The Bulteele and Hill partnership tore the Redditch defence apart, scoring eight of the 10 goals between them.

## Heathens chief revved up for a tight battle

## Dudley Heathens

DUDLEY HEATHENS boss Will Pottinger is expecting a far-more evenly-balanced National League this season.

The former Cradley club topped the table last year, finishing four points clear of eventual champions Mildenhall, while third-placed Isle of Wight were a massive 17 points behind the top two - but Pottinger is sure that gap will not be repeated in 2013.

He said: "I definitely think the National League will be a lot tighter and more even. There is a fair spread of the riders this year; whereas last year ourselves and Mildenhall were a cut above the rest really."

"When you look at the other teams, Isle of

Wight have got Adam Ellis who could be a real trump card at reserve. Coventry are new to the league and have got some good riders, and Stoke have some good riders such as Lee Smart who used to ride for us.

"So I think it is going to be fairly even."

"I also expect Mildenhall will be up there again. The matches between us should be really interesting with the extra twist that our former captain Jon Armstrong is riding for them now, while we have two ex-Mildenhall riders in Lewis Blackbird and Gareth Isherwood."

Heathens enjoyed several high-scoring results in their home meetings at Mammore Wood last season, which will be almost impossible to repeat - but despite the fact he believes the league will be more even, Pottinger is confident that his refurbished side can take the title.

He remarked: "I'm really happy with how the team has come together, and we just can't wait to get started now."

"As long as we can maintain a good home record, take a couple of wins away from home and keep some consistency I don't see why we can't finish in the play-offs."

"As we know only too well from last year,

it's what happens in the play-offs that matters most, so you just need to make sure you finish in the top four and hope all your riders are fit and coming towards peak form for that time of year."

"The league meetings are just qualifiers, really, so we need to build up momentum at the right time ready for the play-offs."

HSSC are gauging support for the possibility of running a coach to the first leg of the Travel Plus Trophy at Coventry on March 22, which will be the club's opening match of the season. The cost will be in the region of £10 and interested supporters are asked to contact HSSC on 07401 059316.

**Haseley plunders another hat-trick**

## Halesowen Town 4 Gresley 2

**HOT-SHOT** Ben Haseley maintained his rich vein of goalscoring form to keep Halesowen knocking on the door of the EVO-STIK League Division One South play-off zone.

The in-form marksmen netted his third hat-trick in four games as the Yeltz continued their unbeaten start to 2013 with a fourth consecutive victory.

Haseley saw an early diving header beaten away but a tremendous spell of Halesowen pressure soon left Gresley reeling.

Haseley pounced to put Halesowen into a 23rd-minute lead when he stroked a precise low drive into the corner of Gary Hately's net.

Aaron Griffiths doubled the hosts' lead five minutes later with a cracking half-volley off the underside of the crossbar after Mitch Boffield's corner broke to the edge of the area.

Royce Turville gave the Moatmen hope against the run of play by turning home Phil Massingham's 35th-minute cross.

Another classic Haseley goal put Halesowen back into the ascendancy at 3-1 in the 66th minute as the striker controlled a long ball forward before unleashing an unstoppable low drive from 15 yards.

Haseley completed a memorable hat-trick with his 33rd goal of the season by collecting Adam Meacham's 75th-minute through ball and turning skilfully before placing the ball into the top corner of the net.

In injury time, Gresley substitute Lewis Hamilton reduced the arrears.

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# ODEMWINGIE HAS BAGGIES BACKING

**ALBION'S** players have insisted Peter Odemwingie is welcome back in the dressing room despite the rebel striker sitting out the Baggies' famous win at Liverpool.

Odemwingie was included in the traveling party but failed to even make the bench for Monday's superb 2-0 success - Albion's third straight win over the Reds.

But, after the 31-year-old reached an agreement to draw a line under his transfer window dispute with the club, defender Gareth McAuley and goalkeeper Ben Foster say the Nigeria forward remains a huge part of the Hawthorns set-up.

The striker argued with fans on Twitter and was involved in an angry verbal exchange with team-mate Steven Reid last week but has since struck a peace deal with Albion officials.

McAuley insisted: "It's fine. The lads realise that if Peter is on the pitch, playing well and scoring goals, everyone benefits from it."

"That's how we're looking at it. Everything is fine now. The line has been drawn and now we're back talking about football."

**Important**  
"Monday at Liverpool was an important win for us and an important clean sheet to get that feelgood factor going again."

"Once you get on the pitch you forget about other things."

"But it's been well-documented and it was important that we got back on the pitch and people started talking about things other than what was happening off the pitch."

"When we're out there together and everyone is pulling together we're a good side."

"We need Pete back on the pitch, playing and scoring goals for us."

Odemwingie's indiscre-

by Steve Madeley

tions coincided with Goran Popov's red card for spitting at Kyle Walker during the 1-0 home defeat against Tottenham - an incident that also led to angry words behind the scenes.

But Foster, who excelled at Anfield with a string of fine saves including a penalty stop from Steven Gerrard, said: "Goran and Peter are good people and they're our friends."

"You see people every single day in training and you get to know them and their family."

"It (Odemwingie's transfer request) was an unfortunate incident and it wasn't nice to see but we've just got to carry on."

"Peter is an important part of our team. When he's on form he's an absolute world-beater, so we will welcome him back into the squad with no qualms whatsoever."

"And I'm sure he will join in and give 110 per cent like he always does."

"I don't think anybody expected to see what they saw but we've moved on from it now and I don't think anybody even talks about it."



Heading for victory - Baggies defender Gareth McAuley, centre, heads home Albion's opening goal at Anfield

## Best yet for Anfield hero Foster

**ALBION** man of the moment Ben Foster has declared his match-winning display at Liverpool as the performance of his life.

The Baggies keeper was the star of the show in Monday's stunning 2-0 success at Anfield with a string of fine saves including denying England skipper Steven Gerrard from the penalty spot.

And the 29-year-old believes the

display was the best he has ever produced.

"The penalty save probably just made it," said Foster. "I played a really good game for Blues against Chelsea at St Andrew's which we won 1-0. I played well in that game and the Carling Cup final was great."

"But with the penalty save and the fact we were playing at Anfield, this probably just tops it."

Foster revealed a hunch from goal-keeping coach Dean Kiely helped him guess which way to dive to save Gerrard's spot-kick.

"I did have an idea what to do," said Foster. "Deano will always show me the recent penalties of the person that takes them. He said 'if I were you I'd go down to your left'."

"You try to use your instincts too, and they told me to go left as well."

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